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Digital Edition

Golden Ticket Awards return in person

## Morgan's Wonderland, Six Flags Fiesta Texas welcome industry

SAN ANTONIO — After stepping away for two years, owing to the global pandemic, the in-person networking event returns. *Amusement Today* was thrilled to plan the Networking Event of the Year again and bring the industry back together for the Golden Ticket Awards.

Two host facilities engaged attendees with everything from haunted attractions to wonderful entertainment to accessibility for park guests.

**Morgan's Wonderland** welcomed industry professionals Friday evening, September 9. There, attendees saw firsthand the vision of park founder **Gordon Hartman** and his ongoing efforts to create multiple properties that rank among the nation's forward thinking and noteworthy, all unified with a common mission.

"What a privilege and pleasure it was for Morgan's Wonderland to host the 2022 Golden Ticket Awards' opening reception," said Hartman, founder of the unique, nonprofit park inspired by his daughter with special needs, Morgan. "We're truly grateful to *Amusement Today* for its ongoing interest in and support of our ultra-accessible, fully-inclusive 'family' of ventures that has grown to include **Morgan's Inspiration Island** splash park, **Morgan's Wonderland Sports** complex, year-round **Morgan's Wonderland Camp** and the Multi-Assistance Center at



COURTESY SIX FLAGS FIESTA TEXAS

Morgan's Wonderland, or The MAC, which will open next month. Our Golden Ticket goal was to offer all attendees legendary Texas hospitality."

Morgan's Wonderland opened in 2010 and immediately gained national attention. In addition to all 50 states, visitors from 71 countries have been welcomed to the first theme park of its kind.

Another unique property opened in 1992. Built within the Redland Quarry, Fiesta Texas was one of the first components of the La Cantera development. Owned by **USAA** insurance company and **Gaylord Entertainment Company**, Fiesta Texas was a sister park to Opryland in Nashville. In 1995, the park became part of the **Six Flags** chain and was renamed **Six Flags Fiesta Texas**. Over three decades, the park has continued its legacy

of top-tier entertainment while growing its impressive arsenal of attractions.

For 2022, Six Flags Fiesta Texas has enjoyed a year-long 30th anniversary celebration. Among the many ingredients of fanfare that have welcomed visitors is the brand-new Dr. Diabolical's Cliffhanger, the nation's latest dive coaster from **Bolliger & Mabillard**.

The park's grand Zaragoza Theater opened its doors for the Golden Ticket Awards ceremony.

"The entire Six Flags Family is humbled to be a host park for the epic return of the largest celebration of industry awards and recognition, the 2022 *Amusement Today's* Golden Ticket Awards," said Park President **Jeffrey Siebert**. "As Six Flags Fiesta Texas commemorates our 30th anniversary this season, we are thrilled to welcome our industry



AT/TIM BALDWIN

colleagues and fans in person to celebrate with us."

Following years of unprecedented challenges in the industry, the celebration of The Best of the Best was the icing on the cake of a networking weekend to connect and share best practices with one another.

"It was very difficult not to host the live event in 2021," said *Amusement Today* Publisher **Gary Slade**. "We weighed the decision for some time, but we knew parks were still emerging from so many challenges. In the end, we knew it was the right decision. But it is so great for us to welcome every-

one again. We're proud to showcase some great Texas hospitality."

"We are so grateful to our host parks and our many sponsors that make the event possible," said **Tim Baldwin**, Golden Ticket Awards Communications Coordinator. "How fun to bring the event back with a big Texas 'Howdy.' Human connection is so important, both personally and in our business. We needed this. *Amusement Today* is very proud to showcase all that's good in the industry."

*All stories this issue  
by Tim Baldwin  
unless otherwise noted*





# GOLDEN TICKET AWARDS

**AT NOTEBOOK:** John W.C. Robinson, jrobinson@amusementtoday.com

## Industry supports itself



Robinson

The Golden Ticket Awards has always been an event where the amusement industry celebrates the previous year, networks for the future and takes a step back to remember what we can accomplish when we work together.

The annual event has strived to remain free for attendees with no registration fees, basic transportation available throughout the itinerary as well as with much of the food and beverage provided. However, to accomplish this, *Amusement Today* actively seeks corporate sponsorships for the Golden Ticket Awards.

With the unease of the industry as it was just getting on its feet again after the COVID-19 pandemic, AT did not feel right reaching out to suppliers for sponsorships in 2021. Their budgets were likely already tight and their priority needed to be reopening for business and helping the industry return to full operation. This is much of the reason the live event was postponed for that year.

However, the "Oscars of the amusement industry" returns to a live event in 2022. And, more importantly, it does so with the support of some amazing industry sponsors.

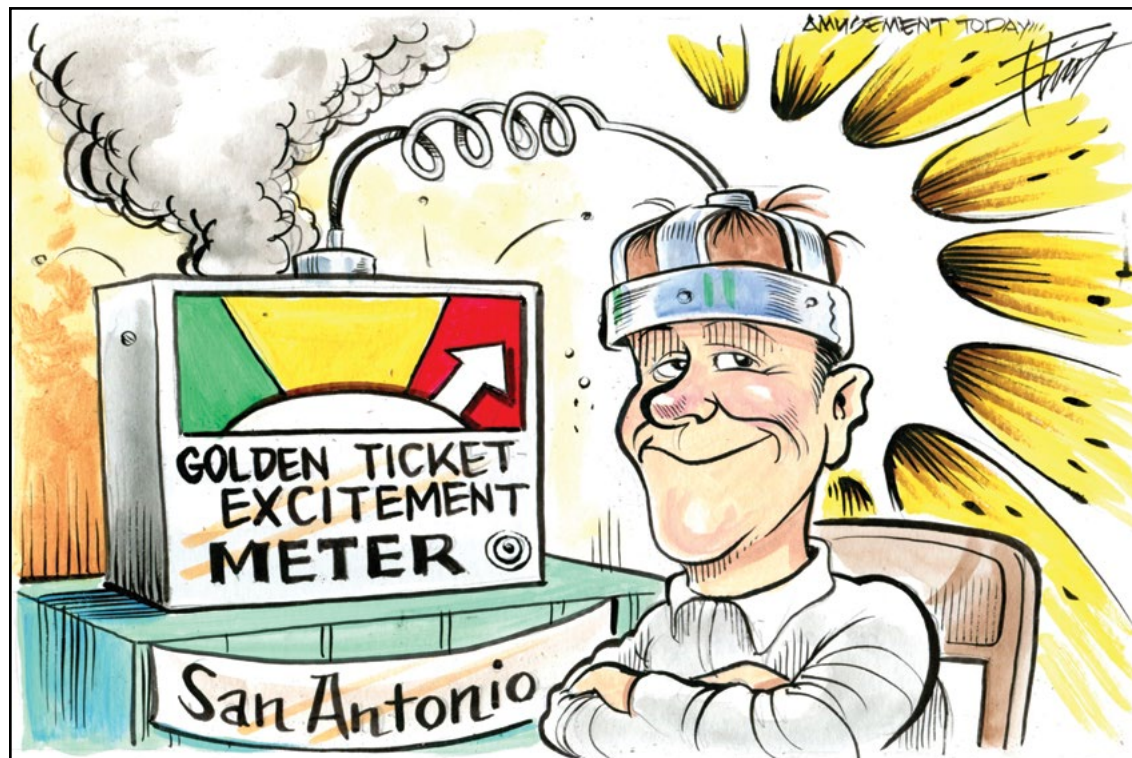
Whitewater West, Chance Rides, Ellis & Associates, McGowan Allied, Northwest Coasters, Premier Rides, Ride Entertainment, Zamperla, Irvine Ondrey Engineering, Larson International, Ralph S. Alberts Company, RWS Entertainment Group and Vekoma all pledged their support as Golden Ticket Awards event sponsors.

In addition, CPI Amusement, EWorks Pro 2.0, InGate Solution and SunKid supplied goods and services to further aid the event.

Hospitality and transportation for the event are being provided by AIMS International, Amusement Industry Consulting, T. Harold Hudson, The Hoffman Consulting Group, International Ride Training, LJM & Associates, the National Roller Coaster Museum, Natural Bridge Caverns, San Antonio Zoo & Kiddie Park, Schlitterbahn Waterpark Resort, Traders Village San Antonio, Worldwide Safety Group and ZDT's Amusement Park.

As we celebrate this past season and the successes of our industry, we are also grateful for our industry comrades who have made the return of the Golden Ticket Awards live event possible.

**FLINT'S VIEW:** Bubba Flint



**AMUSEMENT VOICE:** Tim Baldwin, Golden Ticket Awards Communications Coordinator

## Caring that much

I have loved the amusement industry since my childhood. Long before I became a journalist, my family vacations introduced me to amusement parks, and after finding fellow enthusiasts across the nation, it was easy to dedicate free time to enjoy the countless parks around the globe.

It is that group of devotees that passionately care. While a fanbase may not be the primary attendance group when it comes to the overall business, they are the first people to applaud the attention to detail, the enhancements to the experience and the efforts being put forth by the park.

In talking to fellow fans, I am often confronted with suggestions for new Golden Ticket categories. Often, the choices of existing categories are so challenging to scrutinize that they want to subdivide them: traditional parks vs. theme parks, looping coasters vs. non-looping coasters, live performances vs.



Baldwin

technical outdoor productions.

I get it. There is so much to love! There is so much to applaud.

This year, a suggestion of a new category — Best Bathrooms — made me chuckle. I tried to explain that it's a hard sell to expect someone to cross the stage to accept such an award, not to mention how awkward it would be to market it. It was an interesting conversation.

As I walked away from it, it confirmed to me that people really do care that much. Fans want it shared when their parks are making improvements. For people to realize the efforts that go into the less-than-flashy components of a facility is in its own right remarkable. Parks are doing great things. They aren't always brochure worthy, but they do impact the quality of the guest experience. Each park may not always be told their ongoing efforts are appreciated, but they are.

Yes, people really do care.

*Opinions expressed on this page are those of the columnist(s) and do not necessarily reflect those of the publisher.*



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# Dick Knoebel and his legacy recognized as Golden Ticket Legend

Rare is the individual so beloved by every aspect of the amusement industry. Whether it be the business side, the care and dedication toward the park guests, the love of the enthusiast community or the adoration from fellow family-operated parks, **Dick Knoebel** stands on a pedestal all his own.

When his grandfather founded an amusement park in 1926, Knoebel was automatically immersed into the industry his entire life. Located in Elysburg, Pennsylvania, **Knoebels Amusement Resort** has enthralled visitors for decades, and the love for the park has been carried through from generation to generation.

After a short stint in the Marine Corps, Knoebel was able to engross himself in the various tasks at hand.

Growing up with the park, Knoebel eventually took on larger roles. His involvement in the amusement industry was impactful. He was elected as president of the **Pennsylvania Amusement Parks Association** in 1971. In the mid-1980s, he was instrumental in the development and adoption of the Pennsylvania Ride Inspection Act, which served as the model for most other states. To this day, he serves on the board of directors as secretary/treasurer. His concise report often is boiled down to three words: "We are solvent." His volunteerism also included serving on the board of directors for the **International Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions** from 1999 to 2002.

But it is his work with the



Dick Knoebel

park that truly created a legacy. Knoebels Amusement Resort has a charm and old-fashioned character that breathes authenticity and is almost impossible to duplicate. Projects among the property's attractions stand as a testament to determination, innovation, preservation and a sheer love for what the amusement industry does.

Truly at the forefront is the construction of the park's most famous roller coaster, Phoenix. Originally built in San Antonio, Texas, as The Rocket at **Playland Park** in 1947, the wooden coaster was a brilliant design by **Herbert Schmeck** of the **Philadelphia Toboggan Company**. After that park closed in 1980, Knoebel eventually saw the value in preserving an outstanding ride. Told by many industry "experts" that the idea wasn't sound, Knoebel proved them wrong. The ride opened in 1985 and has been a national — if not global — draw thanks to the constant care of the remarkable machine. Phoenix is one of only two coasters to be in



Flying Turns was the true testament to Knoebel's perseverance. COURTESY KNOEBELS AMUSEMENT RESORT

the top ten of *Amusement Today's* Golden Ticket Awards charts since they originated in 1998. The erection of the ride also involved a young man named **Clair Hain, Jr.**, who eventually went on to cofound **Great Coasters International, Inc.**

The relocation of The Rocket sparked an interest in preserving rides. That project was just the beginning for Knoebel. Over time, more innovative and celebrated projects were to come.

A reinterpretation of **Elitch Gardens'** famous-yet-lost Mr. Twister coaster was championed in 1999 with the opening of Twister, paying tribute to a classic of the past. Black Diamond in 2011 saw PTC's only steel coaster in the company's history purchased from a Jersey pier and brought back to life re-themed to the Pennsylvania region and making for a signature piece for the park —

half coaster, half dark ride.

The most affectionate proof of Knoebel's stubbornness was the construction of Flying Turns. A project of more than seven years, he was told repeatedly that he couldn't build such a vintage ride in the 21st century. Once again, he proved the naysayers wrong. Flying Turns opened in late 2013 and is the only ride of its kind in the world. It won a Golden Ticket for Best New Ride.

"Anyone would consider me lucky to have been raised by an industry legend," said his son **Rick Knoebel**. "Having Dick Knoebel as my father means I have an incredibly accomplished mentor. I've witnessed his resiliency as well as his devotion to restoring and resurrecting rides."

The park itself shows the truth in such a statement. Among the large collection of offerings are refurbished and preserved rides from almost a century ago alongside modern day thrillers. Classic kiddie rides, flat rides and slides harken back to a long-lost era. The park's bumper cars, Flying Scooters and Whip are considered unquestionably among the world's best. A great love of Knoebel, the miniature trains at the park are family crowd pleasers.

One of the park's unquestionable "must do" attractions is its Grand Carousel.

The Knoebels family's love for the 1913 carousel is a true feather in its cap. Purchased from **Riverside Park** in New Jersey in 1941, the carousel is one of the largest in the world, and Knoebels' dedication to preserving the opportunity to grab a brass ring while riding is an Americana tradition virtually lost in today's world.

One of his strongest principles is his dedication to the people who work for him and the people who come visit. His belief in family is one taken to heart. Parking is free. Admission is free. The prices of delicious food and fun attractions remain reasonable and an exceptional value for families who enjoy a day at the park.

"What stands out most to me is my dad's extreme dedication to the job while never once forgetting family comes first," said son **Brian Knoebel**. "Perhaps that's one of the many reasons Knoebels has thrived under his leadership. He understands the importance of family time, and our role in providing that for our guests."

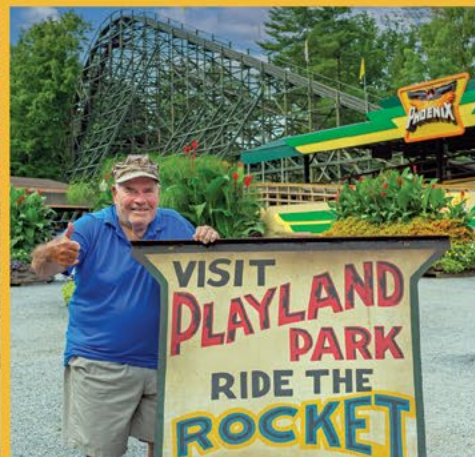
It is that leadership that gives a park something special — a soul.

Having established a legacy of the finest of principles, values, dedication and vision within the amusement industry, *Amusement Today* is thrilled to recognize Dick Knoebel as a Golden Ticket Awards **Legend**.



Knoebel stands with fellow marines on Armed Forces Day (above left). Knoebel was inducted to the IAAPA Hall of Fame in 2014 (above right). COURTESY KNOEBELS AMUSEMENT RESORT





# CONGRATULATIONS TO DICK KNOEBEL, A TRUE INDUSTRY LEGEND!

We thank Dick for his leadership in creating award-winning innovations  
at KNOEBELS AMUSEMENT RESORT for over 60 years!





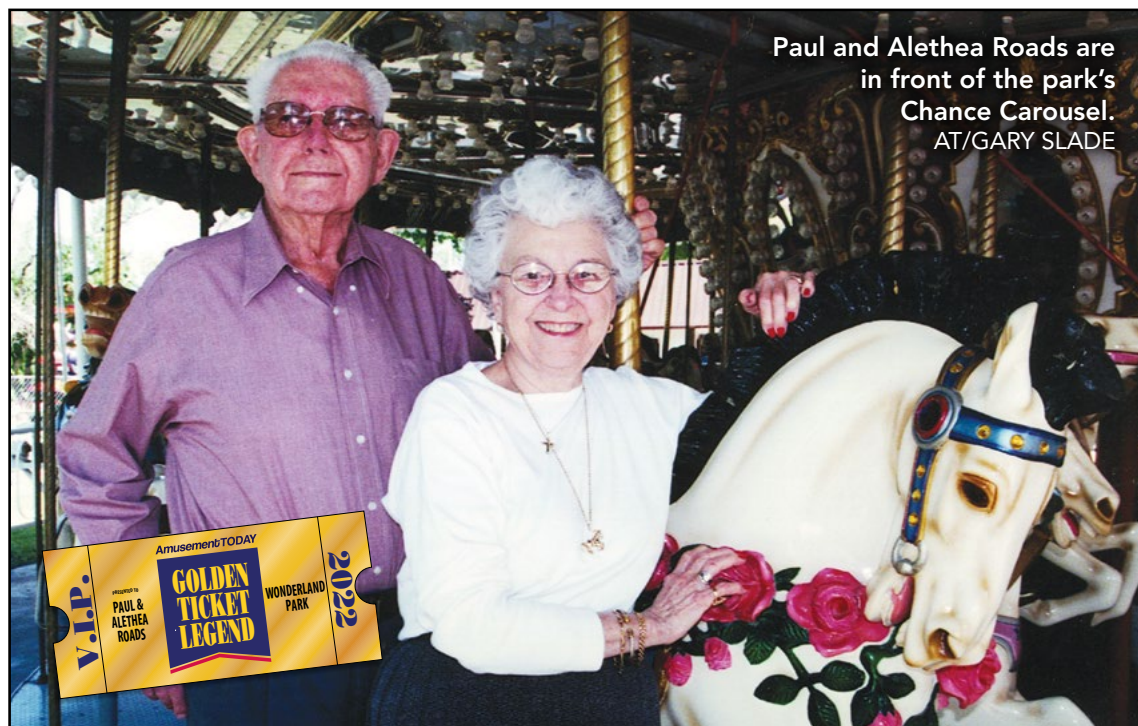
# GTA Legends Paul, Alethea Roads built more than a family park

When **Paul and Alethea Roads** moved to the Texas Panhandle and opened their three-ride **Kiddie Land** on August 12, 1951, no one could have ever imagined the strong Texas winds would blow in their favor for 71 years with no signs of slowing down. What the young couple also didn't realize was the number of lifelong friendships that would be forged along the way, thanks to the people-friendly mentality found in the amusement industry.

Kiddie Land saw instant success with the couple adding at least one ride each year, growing the park to meet demand. A miniature golf course was soon added, and it was becoming clear, Kiddie Land was growing up.

Inspired by Alice in *Through the Looking Glass*, the family changed the name of the park in 1958 to **Wonderland**. Additions of a Tilt-A-Whirl in 1960; Cyclone coaster in 1966 and Scrambler in 1968 put the property on its way to becoming a family park.

When they could attend, it was during their visits to the IAAPA shows in Chicago that the couple noted that not all their friends could be there. These were expensive trips, especially for small parks such as theirs, but the information gained at the show was so valuable to their success. After visiting with the other small-park owners, it was decided that a non-official organization would be formed so this wealth of information could be shared for the betterment of others. Only park owners were invited to attend the meetings, and they would



Paul and Alethea Roads are in front of the park's Chance Carousel.  
AT/GARY SLADE

share what was working and especially what didn't work. Rides, food, games, staffing and advertising buys were all on the table. The group continues to meet to this day, thanks to the Roads vision and even became a little more official when settling on a name: Family Owned Amusement Parks, or FOAM.

When industry friends needed help, the Roads family was there. They assisted **James and Katie Dean** secure the purchase of **Joyland Park** in Lubbock, Texas, which just concluded its 50th year of operation under ownership of the Dean family. When the Deans needed a new train, they bought Wonderland's **Allan Herschell** model. Wonderland then upgraded to a **Chance** CP Huntington. The Roads helped secure flat rides for **Cliff and Zella Hammond** when the New Mexico couple was making the jump from **Uncle Cliff's** to **Cliff's Amusement Park**. They also helped with a ride for

**Fred Foley**, owner of **Funland Park** in Wichita Falls, Texas.

All these connections set the stage for two legendary moves that would impact the small park industry forever.

In the mid-1970s, the couple was getting requests for a dark ride. Having become friends with **Robert Bell, Sr.** of **Bell's Amusement Park**, **Stan Nelson** of **Joyland Park** in Kansas and others, Paul soon realized these parks were getting the same requests. Needing a way to make these rides more affordable for the small parks, Paul convinced his friends, including the ownership at **Lake Winnepesaukah**, to all add dark rides for the 1974 season, and each park would help contribute to each ride in their own way. Paul was a master welder, having worked at the **Amarillo Air Force Base**. He assisted the parks with the ride track and, more importantly, welded the steel framework that would become the rotating barrel scene in each ride.

The Bells family cut off the fronts of school buses for a head-on crash "gag," while the Nelson family worked with **Bill Tracy** and others to line up the tricks and scenes. Lake Winnie organized the production for all the ride vehicle bodies. Wonderland's new Fantastic Journey would lead to a 43-percent increase in attendance. The other parks saw similar gains.

Having become friends with **Harry Batt, Sr.**, owner of **Pontchartrain Beach**, Paul learned that he had installed a Sky Ride similar to those found on ski slopes. That led to their first meeting with **O.D. Hopkins**, which operated a ski lift manufacturing company under the same name. A deal was struck, and the Sky Ride opened in 1977 with much success. An immediate friendship was made and only became closer when introduced to **Jerry Pendleton**, also with Hopkins.

That bond between the Roads family and Pendleton

became so tight that it led to Wonderland becoming the home for seven more prototype Hopkins rides starting with the development of the Big Splash log flume in 1980, Texas Tornado double-loop coaster in 1985, Rattlesnake River Rapids in 1988, Sky Rider aerial tramway ride in 1992, Thunder Jet Racer dueling waterslide in 1993, Pipeline Plunge wet/dry waterslides in 1994 and the first 12-passenger boat Shoot-The Chute ride in 2000. **Walt Disney** is credited for bringing the **Arrow** name to the industry. The Roads can get the same credit for the introduction of Hopkins to the family parks.

The introduction of these rides by Hopkins to the amusement industry now gave small, family-owned parks all across the nation access to popular rides but at a fraction of the cost. New Hampshire-based Hopkins Rides was now a major selling force in the small park market.

The amusement industry lost Paul in 2003 at the age of 84 and his wife Alethea in 2016 at the milestone age of 100. Wonderland is now in the hands of daughter and son-in-law **Paula and Paul Borchardt** and their daughter **Rebecca Parker**. Having just wrapped up its 71st season, Wonderland Park's success is a testament to the groundwork laid by two amusement industry leaders, Paul and Alethea Roads.

*Amusement Today* is honored to recognize these two industry icons as Golden Ticket Awards **Legends**.

—Gary Slade



The first Hopkins roller coaster, the Texas Tornado, made its mark on Wonderland Park in 1985 (above left). Taking the first ride on their prototype log flume in 1980 were Alethea and Paul Roads with ride supplier O.D. Hopkins in the back (above middle). Seen together in front of the park's S&S Frog Hopper are Paul and Paula Borchardt with Alethea and Paul Roads to their left (above right). AT FILE, GARY SLADE; COURTESY WONDERLAND PARK



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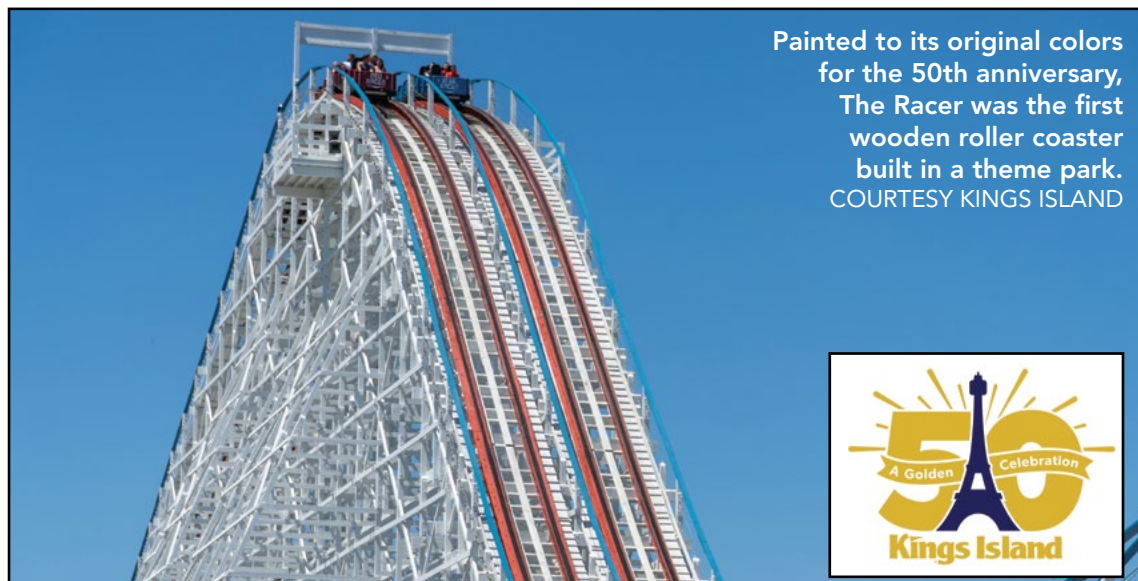
# Celebrating 50 years, Kings Island honored as Park of the Year

It isn't every park that appears on television sitcoms in the first two years of operation. Five decades have passed since those early *Partridge Family* and *Brady Bunch* episodes, but **Kings Island** continues to lead the way for theme parks everywhere.

Even through the various ownerships over the years, Kings Island quickly developed a reputation for innovation and healthy growth.

Among its accolades was the opening-year **John Allen** Racer, which prompted theme parks under development to consider wooden coasters as key attractions. In time, the park introduced the suspended coaster (The Bat), the standing coaster (King Cobra), the first six-inversion coaster (Vortex) and the longest wooden roller coaster in the world (The Beast), which still retains that record more than 40 years later.

And while Kings Islands' coaster arsenal is renowned,



Painted to its original colors for the 50th anniversary, The Racer was the first wooden roller coaster built in a theme park. COURTESY KINGS ISLAND



the park also had creative drive in live entertainment, dark rides and an animal safari attraction. Kings Island was also one of the first major theme parks to include a full water park with daily admission.

"This year, Kings Island celebrated its first 50 years of providing, fun, thrills, entertainment and memories for generations of our guests. Our entire team, and our part-

ners at Cedar Fair, focused on the history of the park and what has made Kings Island a special place for everyone," said **Mike Koontz**, vice president and general manager.

Half a century is plenty of time to garner multigenerational fans, and Kings Island has done that since year one. When a significant anniversary takes place, a park can simply ignore it or completely embrace it. If there was a

template for such occasions, the Cincinnati theme park has successfully created one.

Historic signage and artwork are seen along the midway. The lineup of entertainment takes on a flavor of remembering the park through music of the last five decades, one of its beloved dark ride incarnations brought to life and a fantastic nightly finale. The Racer is painted its origi-



nal colors, and The Beast received substantial trackwork. The carousel has been restored to elegant glory. Countless food options around the park have special items themed to attractions past and present. Even the Carousel Gardens situated below the iconic Eiffel Tower traces the entire history of the park through informative and colorful signage and miniature Eiffel Towers.

"I met a lot of guests on the midways this year that recalled stories about their first visit to Kings Island, their memories, and how thankful they are to have Kings Island as their park," said Koontz.

Because of its important history and its perfect celebration of it, *Amusement Today* honors Kings Island as **Park of the Year**.

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# Classic ride refresh brings Turnstile Award to Six Flags Fiesta Texas

**Six Flags Fiesta Texas** introduced 10 new attractions in 1999, catapulting an increase in attendance by one million people in a single season. Among those attractions, a **Premier Rides** launched coaster was brought online. For more than two decades, *Poltergeist* was a ride enjoyed by park guests as it delivered great thrills.

The park president envisioned more.

The coaster's moniker gave seed to a much greater story, one that management felt could be fleshed out into a more immersive journey.

In the fall of 2021, a reimagined *Poltergeist* reopened, and the park saw full queues as this reintroduction brought new life. The structure was painted a ghostly green with new lighting accentuating it with an eerie glow. Replacing standard back-and-forth queue rails with a graveyard, landscaping, audio and scenic



The reimagination of *Poltergeist* renewed its popularity. COURTESY SIX FLAGS



props, the park helped set the stage for the ride experience. What was an open-air station became an enclosed — and delightfully air-conditioned — themed Victorian environment. The park partnered with **Magic In The Sky**

for scenery and effects. The exterior of the ride took on a dramatic new look, and ghoulish figures captured the attention of those passing by. It was a completely different experience, and visitors loved it. For the first time in decades, the guests were lining up like never before.

It was reinvigorating imagination at work.

This dedication spreads into other areas of the park. Creating its own sculptures for Halloween and Christmas, Fiesta Texas accents the holidays with eye-catching allure. The introduction of the Mardi Gras Festival grew the slower winter shoulder season to kick off each year with solid attendance. The park's legacy of show

quality continues to dazzle audiences. And the imagination of its latest creation, Dr. Diabolical's Cliffhanger, elevates the dive coaster far beyond just the hardware.

For its efforts in bringing guests back again and again, *Amusement Today* is proud to honor Six Flags Fiesta Texas with the Publisher's Pick **Turnstile Award**.

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**THANK YOU** Amusement Today for recognizing Six Flags Fiesta Texas' reimagining of Poltergeist with the 2022 Turnstile Award.





# Kennywood, Premier Rides renew Kangaroo to modern perfection

It was almost a universal groan when the announcement that **Kennywood** was retiring its beloved Kangaroo ride was made in November 2020. Owing to the availability of parts on older rides, the park made the hard call. At the time, **Nick Paradise**, a spokesperson for the park, said, "Any time you are making decisions like this, it is very difficult. We are looking closely at everything. The reality is the parks have to make some hard decisions right now."

Being on this side of the pandemic, the supply chain has only become more frustrating.

Fans voiced their disappointment, and the park listened.

"I was impressed that the Kennywood management clearly understood what the Kangaroo ride meant to the local community and how the attraction was part of the park's DNA that sets it apart from so many other amuse-



ment facilities, said **Jim Seay**, president, **Premier Rides**. "I was a bit surprised they were thinking hard about going down the path to bring the ride back as they, like us, knew it would be a very challenging project. There was an initial period of evaluation when the Kennywood/Premier team had to determine whether the project was even technically possible."

Manufactured by **John Norman Bartlett** under the name Flying Coaster, the Kangaroo was the final operating ride of the breed. The popular ride was the inspiration for creating the park's mascot, **Kenny Kangaroo** in 1974.

Seay noted the Kangaroo ride was a well-built and well-maintained attraction, as evidenced



**Kennywood listened to fans and brought back the Kangaroo.**  
AT/B. DEREK SHAW

by its successful operation since 1962. However, like many historic rides, there was no detailed technical package that is typical for today's highly regulated ride systems. Premier Rides had to use its aerospace-based analytics systems and software to create a 3D CAD (Computer Aided Design) package that allowed application of the real-world loads and G forces.

"It should be pointed

out that Kennywood, like its sister parks such as **Lake Compounce**, is impressively held to an even higher safety standard than most parks as they incorporate both ASTM F24 and EN (Euro Norm) 13814 safety standards and have independent third-party oversight, the highly respected inspection authority TÜV SÜD of Germany," added Seay. "The restoration of the Kangaroo had to achieve conformance to

these guidelines and did."

The ride reopened in late May.

"The voice of the people played a big role in it coming back," said Paradise. "It was definitely a big factor. It has been encouraging to see the response and know we have made the right decision."

"All of us at Premier were extremely honored to have been chosen by Kennywood for the Kangaroo project and the Kennywood/Premier teamwork was extraordinary and a key reason for the project's success and for opening well ahead of schedule," said Seay. "There is no better satisfaction than knowing you have been part of a team that helped create a lifetime memory."

In honor of the rebirth of the Kangaroo, *Amusement Today* is thrilled to present Kennywood, along with Premier Rides, the Publisher's Pick **Renaissance Award**.

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# Fiesta Texas' Jeffrey Siebert honored with 2022 Leadership Award

Amusement Today opened up nominations in the spring and early summer for submissions of people, parks and companies that were inspiring and the finest examples of moving the industry forward. From those, industry professionals and journalists evaluated the encouraging and dedicated efforts of each nominee.

AT is honored to acknowledge **Jeffrey Siebert**, park president of **Six Flags Fiesta Texas** with the 2022 **Golden Ticket Leadership Award**.

"If you hear the name 'Jeffrey Siebert,' it's inevitably followed by a fond memory, funny story or industry best practice," said **Jeff Filicko**, marketing manager, Six Flags Fiesta Texas. "Jeffrey is a tireless advocate for the park's guests and, simply put, doing the right thing. From the push for ongoing park beautification with rejuvenated landscaping and infrastructure to painting major attractions and reimagining the storytelling experience of a queue line, Jeffrey's vision

and leadership are ultimately behind it all."

Siebert is far from the mindset of running a park from behind a desk. Out on the frontlines, he is continuously seen throughout the park. Not only do the hundreds of employees know exactly who he is, so do many of the guests. Many of them look for him during their visits. His enthusiasm and positive energy are infectious, and team members not only feel empowered to do their best but are inspired to do exactly that.

His experience within the industry is vast, and his knowledge of the business is shared with his park leaders. Behind it all is a passion for theme parks that is unsurpassed. His years at Fiesta Texas have led the park to considerable growth.

Two nominees vied for the second-place spot, with one barely nudging ahead of the other.

Since its founding, **RWS** has changed how the industry thinks about entertainment. **Ryan Sta-**



**na's** drive to make a difference has resulted in affordable excellence in live entertainment, interactive experiences in small spaces and large-scale turnkey productions.

"Difficult times reveal character and leadership, and Ryan guided the industry in new ways throughout the pandemic," said **Clara Rice**, RWS.

When clients had difficulty recruiting, Stana matched eager young performers — while stages were dark — with parks needing seasonal staffing. The concept proved successful. In 2021, RWS Fun Crew launched, offering clients frontline personnel focused on operational excellence while entertaining guests with spontaneous and planned performances.

Stana has led RWS



Jeffrey Siebert leads Six Flags Fiesta Texas with creativity, passion and dedication. AT/TIM BALDWIN

through explosive growth in the past year, including the acquisition of **JRA**, an award-winning creative studio headquartered in Cincinnati, and **ted**, Europe's largest entertainment, audiovisual, fitness and custom merchandise company. RWS is now the world's largest full-service provider of visitor attractions and experiences, delivering nearly 500 live experiences and employment for 6,500 performers, technicians and designers in 50 countries around the world in 2022.

President and CEO of the **San Antonio Zoo Tim Morrow** completely transformed the organization in a few short years. Under his direction, he has cast a new vision on the 108-year-old zoo, reimagining and investing in the guest experience, animal welfare and species conservation.

During Morrow's tenure, he has grown the zoo and overseen more than \$50 million in upgrades to animal habitats, zoo infrastructure and animal conservation programs. Some projects include a giraffe

feeding experience, flamingo feeding experience, a kangaroo encounter, large green spaces for families, an award-winning parking garage, a new southern white rhino habitat, saving and relocating **Kiddie Park** — the nation's oldest children's amusement park — as well as upgrades and reimagining to more than 100 animal habitats across the property. Historical firsts include opening Will Smith Zoo School, the largest nature-based preschool in the nation, and establishing the Center for Conservation and Research at San Antonio Zoo — an industry leader in conservation work.

"The future of San Antonio Zoo is healthy, and so is its vision to secure a future for wildlife," said **Cyle Perez**, public relations. "In the last year alone, San Antonio Zoo was named the #2 Zoo in the nation for animal welfare, conservation and education, the #1 Zoo in Texas, and the #1 Outdoor/Adventure Park in San Antonio. Tim Morrow has reignited the future of San Antonio Zoo."

## Leadership Award: Honorable Mentions

### Omid Aminifard, Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk

During the critical time of the pandemic, the management of the Boardwalk was reorganized. Omid Aminifard was thrust into the leadership role as general manager of the historic park, bringing all departments under his direction.

Innovating new practices and procedures, the Boardwalk was the first California park to reopen under COVID restrictions. The lessons learned were shared with other California parks and assisted in their reopening.

In 2021, strict California regulations on public gatherings allowed only a partial season and operation.

With Aminifard's innovations and team leadership, the Boardwalk posted its most profitable year in 2021, and 2022 is on track to be even more successful.

### David Bromilow, Mobaro

David Bromilow has been a unique resource for promoting safety for more than 45 years. In a range of arenas and functions he works tirelessly globally to develop and educate the industry.

His accomplishments include 45 years in the industry, 35 of which have been directly involved in industry safety. Bromilow was a pioneer in independent ride safety inspections in 1985 and the IAAPA COVID advisory board in 2021.

### Michael Fehnel, Dorney Park/Cedar Fair

Mike Fehnel has been instrumental in the success of Dorney and Wildwater Kingdom. He has taken the time to learn all aspects of the business from food, finance, entertainment, operations, security, human resources to maintenance. Mike is consistent in his treatment of all employees and recognizes everyone's contributions while minimizing his own contributions. The employee's welfare has always had equal footing to the company's experiences with Fehnel.

Fehnel championed wage increases in all areas under his control to help bring greater equality with competing job markets and a higher quality of life for his employees. He was and is a great innovator. He has always pushed the envelope further for his park, leading his team to perform to their highest level.





**THANK YOU** Amusement Today for recognizing Six Flags Fiesta Texas Park President Jeffrey Siebert with the 2022 Leadership Award.





# 2022 GOLDEN TICKET AWARD WINNERS

BEST PARK	
1) Europa-Park	Rust, Germany
2) Dollywood	Pigeon Forge, Tenn.
3) Phantasialand	Brühl, Germany
4) Universal Islands Of Adventure	Orlando, Fla.
5) Silver Dollar City	Branson, Mo.

BEST WATER PARK OF 2022	
1) Schlitterbahn	New Braunfels, Texas
2) Splashin' Safari	Santa Claus, Ind.
3) Hyland Hills Water World	Federal Heights, Colo.
4) Volcano Bay	Orlando, Fla.
5) Perfect Day at CocoCay	The Bahamas

BEST FAMILY PARK OF 2022	
1) Dutch Wonderland	Lancaster, Pa.
2) Santa's Village	Jefferson, N.H.
3) Paultons Park	Hampshire, England
4) Legoland Florida	Winter Haven, Fla.
5) Story Land	Glen, N.H.

BEST MARINE LIFE/WILDLIFE PARK OF 2022	
1) SeaWorld Orlando	Orlando, Fla.
2) Busch Gardens Tampa Bay	Tampa, Fla.
3) Disney's Animal Kingdom	Lake Buena Vista, Fla.
4) Discovery Cove	Orlando, Fla.
5) Ocean Park	Hong Kong, China

BREAKOUT FAMILY ENTERTAINMENT CENTER OF 2022	
1) Meow Wolf Convergence Station	Denver, Colo.
2) The Funplex Myrtle Beach	Myrtle Beach, S.C.
3) The Funplex Mount Laurel	Mount Laurel, N.J.
4) Elev8 Fun	Sanford, Fla.
5) Shepherd of the Hills	Branson, Mo.

MOST BEAUTIFUL PARK OF 2022	
1) Busch Gardens Williamsburg	Williamsburg, Va.
2) Dollywood	Pigeon Forge, Tenn.
3) Efteling	Kaatsheuvel, The Netherlands
4) Europa-Park	Rust, Germany
5) Gilroy Gardens	Gilroy, Calif.

BEST WATER RIDE OF 2022	
1) Chiapas	Phantasialand
2) Mystic River Falls	Silver Dollar City
3) Dudley Do-Right's Ripsaw Falls	Universal's Islands of Adventure
4) Timber Mountain Log Ride	Knott's Berry Farm
5) Splash Mountain	Magic Kingdom

BEST KIDS' AREA OF 2022	
1) Dollywood	Pigeon Forge, Tenn.
2) Kings Island	Mason, Ohio
3) Knott's Berry Farm	Buena Park, Calif.
4) Efteling	Kaatsheuvel, The Netherlands
5) Paultons Park	Hampshire, England

BEST HALLOWEEN EVENT OF 2021	
1) Universal Studios Orlando	Orlando, Fla.
2) Knott's Berry Farm	Buena Park, Calif.
3) Six Flags Fiesta Texas	San Antonio, Texas
4) Universal Studios Hollywood	Universal City, Calif.
5) Busch Gardens Tampa Bay	Tampa, Fla.

BEST NEW SHOW OF 2022	
1) "Christmas at the Southern Palace"	Six Flags Over Texas
2) "Fun, Fireworks, and Fifty"	Kings Island
3) "Come See About Me"	Cedar Point

BEST NEW ROLLERCOASTER OF 2022	
1) Iron Gwazi	Busch Gardens Tampa
2) Guardians of the Galaxy: Cosmic Rewind	EPCOT
3) Ice Breaker	SeaWorld Orlando
4) Pantheon	Busch Gardens Williamsburg
5) Dr. Diabolical's Cliffhanger	Six Flags Fiesta Texas

BEST NEW FAMILY ATTRACTION OF 2022	
1) Volkanu: Quest for the Golden Idol	Lost Island Theme Park
2) Remy's Ratatouille Adventure	EPCOT
3) Pirates of Speelunker's Cave	Six Flags Over Texas
4) Jumanji - The Adventure	Gardaland
5) Chasseurs de Tornades	Futuroscope

BEST NEW WATER PARK RIDE OF 2022	
1) Medusa's Slide Wheel	Mt. Olympus
2) Rocket Rapids	Quassy Amusement Park
3) Riptide Racer	SeaWorld San Antonio
4) The Edge	Soaky Mountain Waterpark
5) Rapids Racer	Adventure Island

BEST NEW ATTRACTION INSTALLATION OF 2022	
1) Guardians of the Galaxy: Cosmic Rewind	EPCOT
2) Kangaroo	Kennywood
3-tie) Dr. Diabolical's Cliffhanger	Six Flags Fiesta Texas
3-tie) Volkanu: Quest for the Golden Idol	Lost Island Theme Park
5) Fireball	Adventureland

BEST GUEST EXPERIENCE OF 2022	
1) Dollywood	Pigeon Forge, Tenn.
2) Knoebels Amusement Resort	Elysburg, Pa.
3) Holiday World & Splashin' Safari	Santa Claus, Ind.
4) Kings Island	Mason, Ohio
5) Europa-Park	Rust, Germany

BEST DARK RIDE OF 2022	
1) Star Wars: Rise Of The Resistance	Disney's Hollywood Studios
2) Pirates of the Caribbean: ... Sunken Treasure	Shanghai Disneyland
3) Haunted Mansion	Knoebel's Amusement Resort
4) Indiana Jones ... Temple of the Forbidden Eye	Disneyland
5) Harry Potter and the Escape from Gringotts	Universal's Islands of Adventure

BEST WATER PARK RIDE OF 2022	
1) Wildebeest	Splashin' Safari
2) Krakatau Aqua Coaster	Volcano Bay
3) Voyage to the Center of the Earth	Hyland Hills Water World
4) Master Blaster	Schlitterbahn
5) Medusa's Slide Wheel	Mt. Olympus

BEST FOOD OF 2022	
1) Knoebels Amusement Resort	Elysburg, Pa.
2) Dollywood	Pigeon Forge, Tenn.
3) Silver Dollar City	Branson, Mo.
4) Epcot	Lake Buena Vista, Fla.
5) Europa-Park	Rust, Germany

BEST CHRISTMAS EVENT OF 2021	
1) Dollywood	Pigeon Forge, Tenn.
2) Silver Dollar City	Branson, Mo.
3) Give Kids The World Village	Kissimmee, Fla.
4) Six Flags Magic Mountain	Valencia, Calif.
5) Carowinds	Charlotte, N.C.



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# Best Water Ride winner, other ride categories hang on to their gold

Water rides have been a staple in amusement parks, dating back to scenic rides and Tunnel of Love-type attractions, as well as Shoot the Chutes more than a century ago.



**Chiapas** at **Phantasialand** is a new winner in the **Best Water Ride** category. Supplied by **Intamin**, the ride features multi-levels, changes of direction, creative theming and a dramatic final plunge into a brilliantly designed guest plaza.

"Like so many attractions at Phantasialand, Chiapas had to be incorporated on a rather small footprint in a multi-layered configuration. Looking back at the initial project planning phase and having been 'confronted' with the available area for the new flume ride during the first briefing, it was almost impossible to imagine that a world-class flume ride with all the different features, some of them world's firsts, an hourly capacity of 1600 passengers and all the ideas and requests Phantasialand had in mind can actually be done," said **Sascha Czibulka**, executive vice president, Intamin.

"With all the different features, Chiapas is indeed a one-of-a-kind and most unique water ride. The themed six-passenger boats featuring inline seating, the highspeed lifts, the reverse section, the multiple drops and especially the spectacular last drop of over 20 meters and with a steepness exceeding 50 degrees followed by a camel back hump, the great theming and the number of surprising moments during the six-minutes-plus ride — all this contributes to the huge success and popularity of Chiapas," he added.



Chiapas at Phantasialand has an impressive finale (above left). **Wildebeest** has been a Golden Ticket Winner for more than a decade (above right). AT/TIM BALDWIN; COURTESY HOLIDAY WORLD

**Silver Dollar City's** recent **Mystic River Falls** debuted on the charts last year. Partnering with **Ride Engineers of Switzerland**, the park delivered a rapids ride with the largest drop on the continent, an unusual elevator lift tower and an elevated flume channel. It is the highest-rated water ride in the United States at No. 2.

**Dudley Do-Right's Ripsaw Falls** at **Universal's Islands of Adventure** was a longtime winner in this category. The themed **Mack Rides** flume is still popular at No. 3.

**Timber Mountain Log Ride** (No. 4) made **Knott's Berry Farm** famous when it opened in 1969. More than half a century later, it is still one of the park's greatest draws and one of the world's best flumes.

**Splash Mountain** at **Walt Disney World's Magic Kingdom** completes the top five. The ride is close to 11 minutes long.



In water parks, **Wildebeest** at **Holiday World and Splashin' Safari** seems to be king.

"Wow! We knew we had a top-notch attraction within the first few rides on Wildebeest, but we're blown away every year by its persistent dominance," said **Leah Koch-Blumhardt**, communications. "It refuses to be defeated! Thank you to the voters who continue to keep Wildebeest at the top and thank you to **ProSlide** for designing this incredible ride."

Another ProSlide water coaster is in second place. **Krakatau Aqua Coaster** zips through the namesake of **Volcano Bay**.

**Voyage to the Center of the Earth** (No. 3) is a tube chute that stands as one of the most origi-

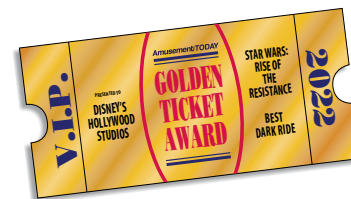


nal water park rides in America. Mostly enclosed, riders float past dinosaurs and theming elements. It has been a hit at Hyland Hills Water World since 1993. The water park partnered with **Sally Dark Rides** and **R&R Creative** to bring a storyline to a water park ride.

**Master Blaster** (No. 4) was the first large-scale uphill water coaster when it debuted at **Schlitterbahn** in 1996. It is still an iconic signature attraction for the park.

**Medusa's Slide Wheel** at **Mount Olympus** completes the top five. The dramatic new attraction not only lands on the charts, but it also took Best New Water Park Attraction this year.

Dark rides are always popular with voters. Last year, **Star Wars: Rise of the Resistance** took **Best Dark Ride** for the first time. It keeps hold of the award for a second year.



"It's an honor to be awarded Best Dark Ride for **Star Wars: Rise of the Resistance** — and that this is our second year to receive that honor is a testament to Walt Disney Imagineering, our park operations team, and our dedicated cast members," said **Jackie Swisher**, vice president, **Disney's Hollywood Studios**. "Through a mix of world-class, innovative technology and only-at-Disney storytelling, I'm proud we help guests live their own *Star Wars* story every day as members of the Resistance or the First Order all throughout the immersive land of *Star Wars: Galaxy's Edge*!"

Disney magic is also felt on *Pirates of the*

► See RIDES, page 24





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## CONGRATULATIONS TO PHANTASIALAND!

For having won the first place in the category "Best Water Ride" for 'Chiapas die Wasserbahn' – featuring among many other fantastic elements the world's steepest drop on a Flume Ride – and a big thank you to Phantasialand for having enabled Intamin to contribute to this great success!



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Rise of the Resistance takes dark rides to a new level — and another universe. COURTESY WALT DISNEY WORLD

►RIDES  
Continued from page 22

**Caribbean: Battle for the Sunken Treasure** (No. 2). The ride at **Shanghai Disneyland** is famous for being incredibly immersive.

**Knoebels Amusement Resort** enjoys success with its traditional **Haunted Mansion** (No. 3). Fans of the park love its old-school feel.

Two more legends round out the top five: **Indiana Jones and the Temple of the Forbidden Eye** at **Disneyland** and **Harry Potter and the Escape from Gringotts** at **Universal Studios Orlando**.

Creating environments for kids has been key to park success. When **Dollywood**

opened **Wildwood Grove** in 2019, it took **Best Kids Area** right out of the gate.



"The first time we walked through Wildwood Grove, we all knew it was a place that would inspire the dreams of our guests," said **Pete Owens**, vice president of marketing. "That was Dolly's intention for the new area, and it definitely delivers. Our third consecutive Golden Ticket Award for Best Kids' Area reinforces that our guests feel the same way. With the expansion of Wildwood Grove thanks

to the addition of **Big Bear Mountain**, there is going to be even more for every member of the family to enjoy in 2023."

**Kings Island** (No. 2) took this award for countless years with its kids section. It has held many names, but it is known as **Planet Snoopy** today and offers kids and families an incredible assortment of attractions.

**Knott's Berry Farm** (No. 3) had the original **Camp Snoopy**, and the themed environment adds to the rides in a big way.

Two European parks close out our finalists: **Efteling** (No. 4) with its vast **Fairytales Forest** and **Paultons Park** (No. 5) and its whimsical **Peppa Pig World**.



Wildwood Grove is not only fun for the kids but also the parents. AT/TIM BALDWIN





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# Europa-Park makes it eight in a row, Schlitterbahn an astounding 24

Vacationers and park aficionados have their favorites around the world. So many fans have specific reasons for their choices: the selection of rides, creative theming, the park ambience, the lineup of coasters or the park's location.

**Europa-Park** started its slow and steady climb up the ladder with its first appearance among the top ten parks in 2005. By 2011 it was in the top three. Snagging the Golden Ticket for **Best Park** in 2014, Europa-Park takes its eighth consecutive win in 2022. The growth of the Rust, Germany, park has been remarkable with a balance of investments in both brand-new attractions and in beloved classics from the past.

"This is an industry that runs on emotions, and that is one of my favorite words. Recently our job to entertain our guests and create happy emotions has been



Europa-Park makes it eight consecutive years. AT/TIM BALDWIN

tested by the unfortunate circumstances in today's world," said **Roland Mack**, co-founder. "When I heard Europa-Park had won the Golden Ticket Award for the eighth time, it was just what we needed, and our emotions soared with pride

for this amazing accomplishment. The Mack family and our team members thank all the voters and *Amusement Today*. We take this award very seriously and will continue to be the engine of happy family emotions!"

One of the greatest components of Europa-Park's success is its attention to detail.

**Dollywood** (No. 2) is emulating Europa-Park's blueprint with a dedication to quality attractions, family offerings with a wide

demographic, beautiful resort accommodations, breathtaking landscaping and a phenomenal guest experience. With a new hotel and expansion of the award-winning Wildwood Grove opening in 2023, the resort's \$500 million investment over 10 years is evident to the guests.

Dollywood landed on the Golden Ticket charts in 2008 at the No. 10 spot. In 2011, it leapt to No. 4. In 2019 it saw its highest climb to second place. This is the third time for the park to be in this position.

Jumping into the top five in the No. 3 spot is another German park, **Phantasialand**. Its most recent expansion — an area called Rookburgh — took the steampunk theme to extraordinary heights by intertwining an innovative flying coaster from **Vekoma** with restaurants

► See PARKS page 32

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## Thank you!

**The Mack Family and the entire team of Europa-Park is thrilled and touched to receive the 2022 Golden Ticket Award for Best Park!**

It is a very special feeling to be recognized with this award again after this difficult time we have been through together as an industry. Our heartfelt congratulations go to all the winners of all the other categories – excellence must be recognized and celebrated!

We thank all the readers and the entire team behind Amusement Today for organizing these awards!



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## ► PARKS

Continued from page 29

and a new hotel. The charm and sophistication of Phantasialand have notably resonated with fans.

Continuing to place in the top five parks is **Universal's Islands of Adventure**. Recent additions themed to the Wizarding World of Harry Potter and *Jurassic World* have been huge hits. Both those new additions have already landed in the Top 25 chart for steel coasters.

**Silver Dollar City** in Branson, Missouri, finds itself rounding out the top five. Although the turn-of-the-century theme park has made an appearance in the top ten parks before, this is the highest ranking for Silver Dollar City.

If a top ten list is desired — and certainly deserving of accolades — high marks go to **Cedar Point** (No. 6), **Knoebels Amusement Resort** (No. 7), **Kings Island** (No. 8), **Hersheypark** (No. 9) and **Tokyo DisneySea** (No. 10).

Among the greatest feats in all of Golden

Ticket Awards history, **Schlitterbahn** is the only park to win a category every year since the Best of the Best was introduced in 1998 [noting the exception of 2020 when no voting categories took place during the pandemic.] The undefeated champ claims **Best Water Park** for a mindboggling 24 times.

"For our park to have won this award again for the 24th consecutive year is humbling," said Darren Hill, vice president and general manager, Schlitterbahn. "This Golden Ticket represents the greatest reward for the hard work and efforts of our associates who each day strive to provide a safe, friendly, unique and fun environment for our guests."

"Schlitterbahn New Braunfels is one of a kind, blending first-of-their-kind signature attractions with the history and nostalgia of the park's roots embedded in a natural environment. We are truly blessed to have once again been recognized in this way. We are so thankful for *Amusement Today*, the

Golden Ticket voters and all of our fans who support Schlitterbahn each year."

**Splashin' Safari**, **Holiday World's** renowned water park keeps its place as No. 2 for a second consecutive year. Home to gigantic, crowd-pleasing attractions, Splashin' Safari has become quite the uphill water coaster capital. *Wildebeest*, *Mammoth* and *Cheetah Chase* have all won awards throughout their histories.

**Hyland Hills Water World** (No. 3) stays in the top five and jumps up two notches. Two massive attractions built in 2021 continued this park's legacy of signature rides.

**Volcano Bay** (No. 4) continues to captivate with its outstanding and immersive theming. It is the highest-ranking water park in all of Florida.

A newcomer to the top five is **Perfect Day at CocoCay**, a private resort in the Bahamas for the **Royal Caribbean** cruise line. It boasts the tallest water-slide in North America, a helium balloon ride and free buffets.



Schlitterbahn (above) is the longest-running Golden Ticket winner. Splashin' Safari (right) has become the Mecca for uphill water coasters.

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## CELEBRATING 2022 GOLDEN TICKET FINALISTS



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# Entertainment resurges; Six Flags Over Texas takes Best New Show

The global pandemic took a harsh toll on the world of entertainment. Broadway in New York was devastated by being shut down. Likewise, theme parks had to pivot for a time when indoor theaters weren't viable.

Fortunately, entertainment has rebounded in a huge way. Theme parks have been analyzing how to offer an even greater variety of show offerings both indoors and out. *Amusement Today* received its largest batch of show nominations for **Best New Show** to date. In similar fashion, AT was pleased to use the dedicated talents of its largest panel of show fans. Parks had a time-frame through early summer to nominate and supply full shows that had been created within the last 12 months. The panel then had to watch each nomination in its entirety.

The diversity of performances made it a fun challenge to pick a top winner. From fireworks and multimedia to audience interaction to drones to traditional song and dance — the offerings were impressive. This was one of the tightest races in the 2022 Golden Ticket Awards and the winner wasn't fully determined until the final vote was cast.

**Six Flags Over Texas** took the top bill with **"Christmas at the Southern Palace."** The 25-member cast dazzled audiences with soaring vocals, beautiful costumes and a live band. Packed houses leapt to their feet at each holiday performance.

"Christmas at the Southern Palace was a fitting finale for our 60th anniversary season," said **Sharon Parker**, park president, Six Flags Over Texas. "We knew this show would be a hit for our guests from the earliest rehearsals. From the set design to the live band and heartfelt renditions of holiday classics, this show was one of the largest and most well-received productions in our park's storied history. I am incredibly excited for our team to receive this recognition."

**Kings Island** took its 50th anniversary to heart with a wide lineup of entertainment. Two of its shows made it into the five finalists. **"Fun, Fireworks and Fifty — A Kings Island Nighttime Spectacular"** created a nail-biter in the race to snag the Golden Ticket. Its No. 2 spot was a tight finish. **"Phantom Theater Encore"** placed fourth. The latter was a nod to a former dark ride attraction that longtime fans have missed for a couple of decades.

"We celebrated some of the most historic moments in the park's history this year with seven new shows, highlighted by our 'Fun, Fireworks and Fifty' every night on International Street," said **Mike Koontz**, vice president and general manager, Kings Island.

"I literally tear up every time I watch the show. It takes me full circle from my first visit in 1972 to today," said **Don Helbig**, area manager, digital marketing.

**Cedar Point's "Come**



"Christmas at the Southern Palace" wowed audiences with a 25-member cast including live musicians, singers, dancers and multiple sets. AT/TIM BALDWIN

**See About Me"** (No. 3) brought in the energy of Motown with singers, dancers and live musicians.

"Our entertainment team was ecstatic to be able to bring guests back into indoor theaters," said Director of Communications **Tony Clark**, Cedar Point. "To be able to debut a show that the team put together from scratch turned out to be a crowd favorite. Our team is pumped about continuing entertainment lineups in our indoor spaces as well as our outdoor spaces. That gave us a chance to innovate in the performance arena."

Completing the five finalists, **Holiday World & Splashin' Safari** presented **"Holidays in the Sky."** This



"Phantom Theater Encore" (No. 4). COURTESY KINGS ISLAND

show was well received and featured drones creating images in the sky. The three-dimensional aspects of the visuals presented a 400-foot-tall Christmas tree with a depth of 150 feet. Synchronized to music, 16 images filled the sky with a

width of 700 feet.

"I couldn't recommend seeing the show in person enough!" beamed **Leah Koch-Blumhardt**, communications, Holiday World. "If you had any reason to come even close to our area, you have to see it to believe it!"



"Holidays in the Sky" (No. 5, above left). "Come See About Me" (No. 3, above middle). "Fun, Fireworks and 50" (No. 2, above right). COURTESY HOLIDAY WORLD, KINGS ISLAND; AT/TIM BALDWIN



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# Medusa's Slide Wheel, Volkanu, Iron Gwazi are Golden new attractions

New rides are big attendance drivers. 2022 saw no shortage of attractions making their debut.

For **Best New Water Park Attraction**, **Mount Olympus Water and Theme Park** introduced North America to **Medusa's Slide Wheel**. The revolving water-slide was mesmerizing as it captivated not only visitors but motorists passing by.



"The first rider that came down the slide gave it a 10 out of 10!" said **Fotini Backhaus**, marketing. "He also mentioned it was the most confusing and unique waterslide he's ever been on with a huge smile on his face. Our guests are loving it and can't get enough!"

The attraction was provided by **WhiteWater West**. "Nick Laskaris and his



Medusa's Slide Wheel.  
COURTESY MOUNT OLYMPUS  
WATER AND THEME PARK

family have always had intuition for great entertainment and additions," said **Andrew Mowatt**, executive vice president, WhiteWater West. "The Slide Wheel is a revolutionary and iconic experience. There's nothing like it, and it's the first one in the USA and the Americas. It's a great unique and iconic attraction for Mt. Olympus and their long-term growth strategy, as well as for Wisconsin Dells at large. It is a total game changer. Every once in a while, something truly new and iconic comes along in our

industry, and this is it."

**Rocket Rapids** at **Quassy Amusement Park** comes in second. Supplied by **ProSlide**, the uphill water coaster features drops, saucers and rising sections that blast riders uphill with jets of water.

**Riptide Race** (No. 3) at **SeaWorld San Antonio** allows competition between family and friends, when side-by-side channels feature rally points where riders can check out their position during the race. It was supplied by ProSlide.

WhiteWater West pro-



Iron Gwazi.  
AT/TIM BALDWIN

vided **The Edge** (No. 4) at **Soaky Mountain Waterpark** in Tennessee. A combination of dual slides, timed dispatches and side-by-side Boomerango elements made this a significant addition to the new water park.

**Rapids Racer** at **Adventure Island** in Tampa rounds out the finalists. It

featured the first dual channel saucers on a waterslide.

Championing the Golden Ticket for **Best New Family Attraction**, **Lost Island Theme Park** found a great response to its dark ride, **Volkanu: Quest for the Golden Idol**. The highly

► See NEW, page 39

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**►NEW****Continued from page 36**

immersive themed experience was considered a crowning achievement for the park.

"When nearly every guest exits saying, 'Let's do that again!' you know the ride must be good," said **Eric Bertch**, owner and general manager. "Thanks to the folks at **Sally Dark Rides** for bringing our crazy original story to life."

"It's very different in style and scope than previous Sally interactive rides," said **Drew Hunter**, VP creative design, Sally. "Volkanu is an original, non-IP theme developed by Sally and Lost Island together. It's a brand new ride in a brand new theme park in Midwest America — quite a unique achievement in itself!"

**Remy's Ratatouille Adventure** (No. 2) at **EPCOT** gave riders the sense of being the size of a mouse as they whisked through larger-than-life sets and story-telling projections.

**Six Flags Over Texas** brought back a beloved attraction from its past. A rei-



magined dark ride 30 years after its retirement delighted guests entering **Pirates of Speelunkers Cave** (No. 3).

**Jumanji – The Adventure** (No. 4) found favor with European guests. The attraction is at **Gardaland** in Italy and sends guests on a mission to lift a curse. The dark ride is enhanced with vehicles made to resemble those from the *Jumanji* movie franchise and rock, spin and propel riders along physical sets, video and audio effects.

**Chasseurs de Tornades** (No. 5) wowed guests at **Futuroscope** in France. Pioneering new technology, the **Dynamic Attractions** motion theater features live, on-stage action surrounded by a 360-degree screen.

For **Best New Roller Coaster**, it is no surprise to see **Iron Gwazi** at **Busch Gardens Tampa Bay** take the Golden Ticket. The coaster by **Rocky**



**Volkanu: Quest for the Golden Idol.** COURTESY TOM NICKERSON

**Mountain Construction** made an impressive debut on the Steel Chart at No. 4. Originally scheduled to open in 2020, the global crisis changed plans. It delivers an out-of-control experience like no other in Florida.

"Iron Gwazi is clearly a fan favorite!" Park President **Neal Thurman** told *Amusement Today*. "As the world's fastest and steepest hybrid coaster and North America's tallest, Iron Gwazi is a non-stop thrill machine that delivers an action-packed ride experience. Our partners at RMC did an outstanding job creating this

spectacular ride. We are beyond thrilled to receive the award for the Best New Roller Coaster of the year."

"This project has been so many years in the making, even before the pandemic," said **Jake Kilcup**, COO, RMC. "Completely worth the wait. Seeing people get to experience the ride for the first time after years of anticipation was awesome. I know it was tough for everyone to see it sitting idle for so long — especially RMC and Busch! Sometimes the anticipation just adds to the excitement. It's a wonderful, fun ride in a wonderful, fun

park. It was a very collaborative process that pushed each of our teams to bring our best to the table, and I think that's obvious when you hit the brakes."

**EPCOT's Guardians of the Galaxy: Cosmic Rewind** lands at a strong second place. Elaborately themed, the **Vekoma** coaster is the longest indoor coaster in the world.

**Ice Breaker** (No. 3) was another delayed-because-of-the-pandemic steel coaster. **SeaWorld Orlando** debuted this quadruple-forward-backward launch coaster in February. It was supplied by **Premier Rides**.

**Pantheon** (No. 4) at **Busch Gardens Williamsburg** was another highly anticipated new coaster. Manufactured by **Intamin**, the launched coaster reaches 73 mph, tying the park's hypercoaster for fastest.

**Dr. Diabolical's Cliffhanger** was a late-summer opening, but still completes the top five. The **Bolliger & Mabillard** dive coaster at **Six Flags Fiesta Texas** sees the company build its steepest drop, 95 degrees.

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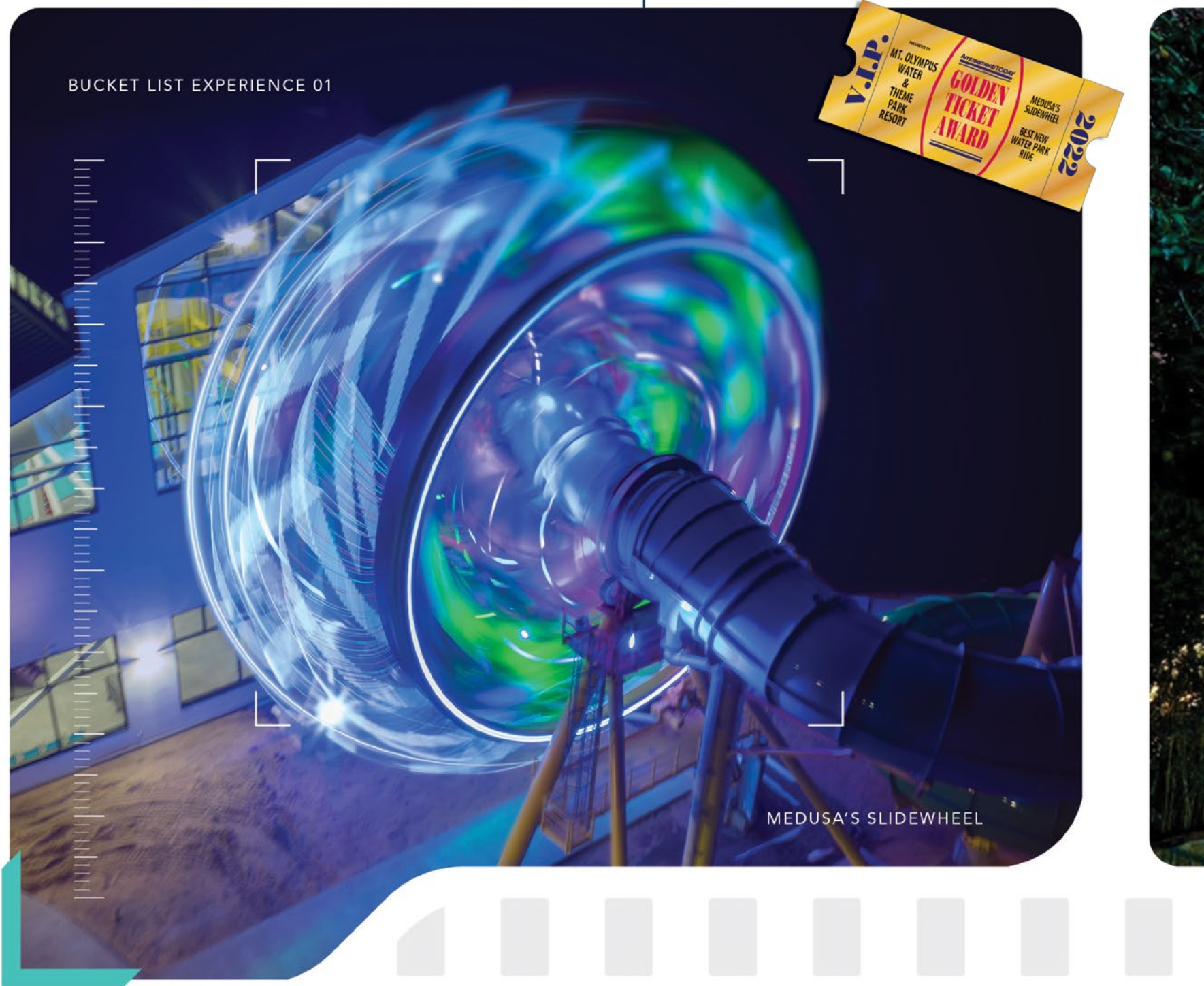
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# Universal, Dollywood celebrate Holiday festival Golden Tickets

After a worldwide shake-up owing to the pandemic, last year's holiday festivals returned to normal for the most part. Social distancing was no longer dictated. Pent-up demand saw audiences enjoying being frightened out of their wits or embracing the warmth of all things merry.



**Universal Studios Orlando** has been a frequent winner of the **Best Halloween Event** category. After stepping away in 2020, the park now reclaims this Golden Ticket for its 2021 event.

"After canceling the event in 2020 due to the pandemic, we were thrilled to bring the terror of Halloween Horror Nights back to guests in 2021," said **Jim Timon**, senior vice president of entertainment, **Universal Orlando Resort**. "No one does Halloween like Universal Orlando Resort, and we're excited to return to normal operation so we can unleash the scares of Halloween

Horror Nights in the highly-immersive and creative ways that we've become known for around the globe."

**Knott's Berry Farm** returns to its No. 2 position. The park boasts the longest-running Halloween event in a theme park. Starting as a three-night affair in 1973, "Knott's Scary Farm" (also known as Halloween Haunt) has been a sold-out sensation for now close to five decades.

**Six Flags Fiesta Texas** (No. 3), last year's recipient of the Golden Ticket, stays on the charts for a second consecutive year. The San Antonio theme park makes the most of its quarry setting with outstanding live shows, multiple haunts throughout the park and immersive scare zones.

**Universal Studios Hollywood** (No. 4) finds itself on the charts for the first time. It creates a bit of sibling rivalry with its sister park in Orlando.

Rounding out the five finalists is **Busch Gardens Tampa Bay**, which is known for a top-tier Halloween event.

**Best Christmas Event** of 2021 brings some new faces to the list of finalists. What



Dollywood's Smoky Mountain Christmas is the undefeated champ of Best Christmas Event (above). Universal Studios Orlando returns to claim the Golden Ticket for Best Halloween Event (below). COURTESY DOLLYWOOD, UNIVERSAL STUDIOS ORLANDO

isn't new is the name on top.

**Dollywood** has been an undefeated champ since this category was introduced in 2008.

"Since it began in 1990, our Smoky Mountain Christmas festival has become a well-established symbol of the Dollywood experience," said **Wes Ramey**, public relations manager. "It is such a landmark event throughout the theme park industry that it has been celebrated in several motion pictures including **The Hallmark Channel's Christmas**



at Dollywood, as well as **Dolly Parton's Mountain Magic Christmas** which airs later this year on NBC. We hope those who haven't experienced this special time of year in the Smokies will come visit us to see why it is the only park to ever win the Golden Ticket Award for Best Christmas event."

When **Pete Herschend** took a gamble of \$50,000 in 1988 to outline the buildings of **Silver Dollar City's** Town Square, the park was among the earliest in the industry to introduce a Christmas event. Not only was it a success for the park, but a catalyst to expand the tourism draw for Branson from its fall October season all the way through the holiday season. Today Silver Dollar City (No. 2) is a renowned player in the Christmas arena. The park begins putting up 6.5 million lights beginning June 25. Countless industry professionals from around the world have come to visit the park to see its handiwork and orchestration.

"For over three decades, Silver Dollar City's Christmas

festival has been a major holiday attraction for families from Chicago to Dallas to Memphis," said Park President **Brad Thomas**. "Our lights, shows and food plus all the lights, festivities and shows of Branson continue to make the Ozark Mountains a place for families to gather and celebrate."

**Give Kids The World Village** entered the charts last year. Not only is the "Night of a Million Lights" magical for all its visitors, it also goes to support the wonderful efforts provided by this nonprofit. It keeps its spot in third place.

New on the charts is **Six Flags Magic Mountain** (No. 4). In 2021, the park added a new area **HollyRock!** winter wonderland. **Polar Point** was a new land introduced when the event was a drive-through experience in 2020 and was kept when the in-person event returned.

Rounding out the finalists is another newcomer, **Carowinds** (No. 5). The park's **Winterfest** has been growing, both in size and popularity.

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[Dollywood.com](http://Dollywood.com)



# EPCOT's 'Marvel' of a coaster wins Best New Attraction Installation

From the big to the small, new installations found favor among the industry voters. Not every project involves stellar budgets, but some do. The diversity of finalists in the category of **Best New Attraction Installation** brings various perspectives to the category.

Taking the Golden Ticket is EPCOT's **Guardians of the Galaxy: Cosmic Rewind**. Several years in the planning, the attraction is the park's very first roller coaster and set records for longest indoor roller coaster in the world.

"I am delighted that Guardians of the Galaxy: Cosmic Rewind won Best New Attraction Installation!" said **Kartika Rodriguez**, vice president, EPCOT. "Opening this attraction in summer of 2022 was a pivotal moment in the overall transformation of EPCOT and of the 50th Anniversary Celebration of **Walt Disney World**, and I am proud to see its excellence recognized. From the planet Xandar to our own



home planet, Terra, only Disney could tell a story as thrilling and groundbreaking as Guardians of the Galaxy: Cosmic Rewind. Congratulations to **Walt Disney Imagineering**, our EPCOT cosmic family and everyone who has joined in on 'save the galaxy time!'"

Housed in a massive show building beyond the perimeter of EPCOT's walkways, the roller coaster was supplied by **Vekoma**. The innovative trains turn and face many visual elements as they speed through the blackness of the galaxy. One of the ride's biggest surprises is its backward launch.

Completely the opposite of a mega-million-dollar attraction is **Kennywood's Kangaroo** (No. 2). Listening to the loyal fans, manage-



ment reevaluated and knew the retirement of this beloved classic ride was not in the park's best interests. It took effort and dedication to find solutions and obtain parts to the historic ride and bring it back brighter than ever. Partnering with **Premier Rides**, the installation of the revitalized Kangaroo met with rave reviews.

After an absence of 10 years, **Six Flags** and **Bolliger & Mabillard** collaborated once again. **Dr. Diabolical's Cliffhanger** (No. 3) was the chain's first dive coaster, and the **Six Flags Fiesta Texas** team took it to the next level with a pre-show telling an engaging story that elevated the ride to the next level. **LifeFormations** provided

animatronics in the pre-show. Specific requests from the park pushed B&M to develop its steepest dive to date and to engineer stronger forces in the elements.

Tying for third, America's newest amusement destination, **Lost Island Theme Park**, had a decade-long collaboration with **Sally Dark Rides** to produce **Volkanu: Quest for the Golden Idol**. The iconic attraction is one of the signature rides at the new park.

Once again, as evidence of "Good things come in small packages," **Fireball** at Longs Island's **Adventureland** delivered crowd-pleasing thrills in a compact space. Manufactured by **Ride Engineers of Switzerland**, the roller coaster track is stacked on a vertical plane and riders descend cantilevered to the side allowing riders to rock back and forth. For this size of amusement park, the additional lighting and props to convey the affects of fire make an even more impressive installation.

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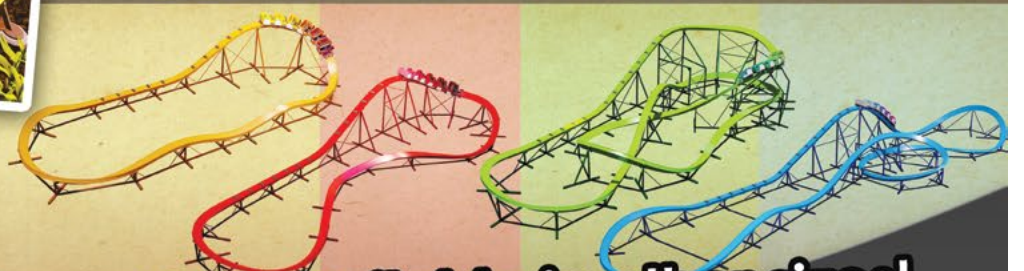
Height	23' [7.0 m]
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# Busch takes back Most Beautiful; Knoebels, Dollywood hang onto gold

**Dollywood** boasts being a finalist in numerous categories. It is no surprise the Tennessee gem has climbed the list of top-rated parks over the years. For the third time, it takes the Golden Ticket for **Best Guest Experience**. This is a category that focuses on cleanliness, employee friendliness, ride operations and value.



"We don't do what we do to win awards, but they sure are nice," Dollywood's namesake **Dolly Parton** said jokingly. "Seriously though, we're proud of the recognition we receive because it means we're doing well at what we want to do — take care of the great folks who come to visit our park year after year. I've always known that the Smokies are a very special place, and for the park to be just one reason why so many people come visit this little part of Tennessee warms my heart. To hear that they think so highly of their time at Dollywood really does this Smoky Mountain girl a lot of good."

"The Golden Tickets award ceremony is one of my favorite events of the year," said **Eugene Naughton**, president, Dollywood. "I appreciate *Amusement Today* for hosting the awards because they serve as a good gauge to help us understand how our guests are



Busch Gardens Williamsburg takes back the Golden Ticket for Most Beautiful Park. COURTESY BUSCH GARDENS

feeling about their experience. We've really put a lot of focus the last few years into ensuring that when our guests are inside our park, they are having a great time and are busy creating those memories they're going to cherish for years to come. Our third-consecutive Best Guest Experience award is a tangible representation of the hard work our hosts put into the park really does matter to our guests. We are proud of these awards, and they only make us want to work harder to win them again next year."

**Knoebels Amusement Resort** keeps its No. 2 spot. The family-owned park in the hills of Pennsylvania offers free admission, free parking and an incredible laid-back feel that never fails to charm visitors. Most

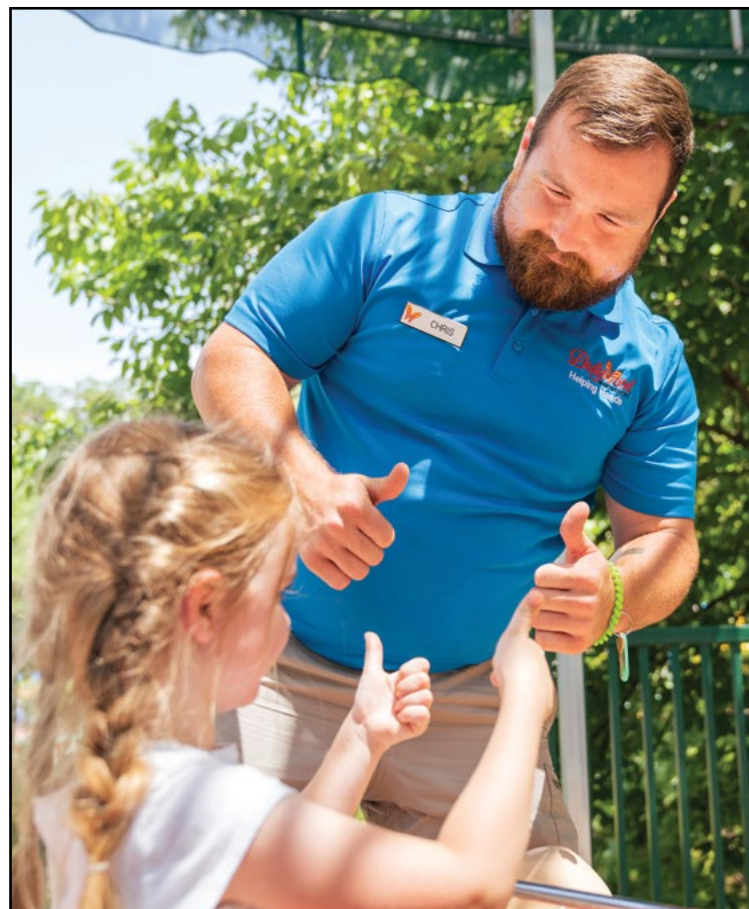
first-time guests comment that there is nothing like it.

Likewise, **Holiday World's** commitment to cleanliness and friendliness has always made visiting a joy to its loyal audience. Crowd-pleasing rides are combined with welcoming hospitality, including free beverages. It ranks in the top three spots.

In comparison to last year, the final two finalists flip positions. **Kings Island's** mix of award-winning rides, beautiful atmosphere and solid operations place it at No. 4. Germany's **Europa-Park** does the same with its commitment to guest enjoyment and attention to detail. The park completes the top five.

After a one-year lapse, **Busch Gardens**

► See GOLD, page 48



Dollywood makes it three-in-a-row for the Best Guest Experience Golden Ticket. COURTESY DOLLYWOOD

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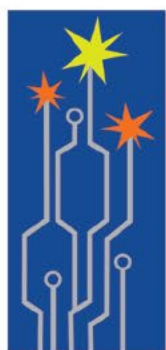






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## ► GOLD

Continued from page 46

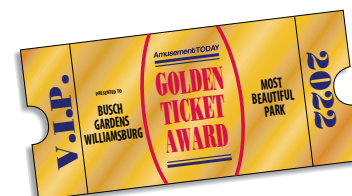
**Williamsburg** takes back the Golden Ticket for **Most Beautiful Park**.

"Busch Gardens is dedicated to providing a world-class experience for our guests," said Park President **Kevin Lembke**. "This award is made possible by our passionate and hardworking team that showcases our commitment to upholding the beauty of Busch Gardens Williamsburg. We are grateful to be recognized and look forward to preserving a quality park experience for generations to come."

Dollywood had embraced this award when it scooped it last year. It comes in at No. 2 in 2022. Colorful flowers complement the natural hillside of the Smoky Mountain setting.

**Efteling** in The Netherlands (No. 3) has a long history of dazzling visitors with its beautiful landscaping, unique architecture and natural surroundings.

Europa-Park (No. 4) has made a bold commitment to creating a world-class environment through its lush gardens, ornate details and breathtaking vistas. Several of the park's res-



taurants take advantage of the park's beautiful views.

Rounding out the finalists for this category is **Gilroy Gardens**. Its very name indicates the beauty that guests will discover inside. Gorgeous landscaping complements the park's signature circus trees, making it a gardener's wonderland.

The amusement industry as a whole continues to up its game in terms of enhancing the food experiences.

**Knoebels Amusement Resort** loves its food, and so do the guests. Much of the popularity can be found in atypical offerings. The park offers weekend dinner specials at its Oasis restaurant. Friday nights have an all-you-can-eat fish fry. Wednesdays are spaghetti nights. Combine this with all the park's popular offerings and voters have given the nod to the park for **Best Food**.

"We're proud to offer a delicious and diverse menu at great prices," said **Dick Knoebel**, owner. "Of course, we continue to innovate with menu additions from year to year.

But what's just as important is we listen to guest feedback and reintroduce items that are missed from previous years."

To no one's surprise, Dollywood (No. 2) is highly rated in this category. In fact, Knoebels and Dollywood have shared a playful tug-of-war with the category in years past.

Branson's **Silver Dollar City** (No. 3) is a feast for the eyes and the palate. Whether it is the country cooks behind the large cowboy skillet or the savory meats in the park's impressive new smokehouse, no one leaves the park hungry. It's not unusual to see guests carrying out a loaf of cinnamon bread with them.

**EPCOT** (No. 4) is a world's smorgasbord with international cuisine everywhere. The park's Food & Wine Festival is always a popular event as well.

Europa-Park completes the five finalists. Germany's most-visited theme park has international cuisine, sit down to take away, fine dining and signature snack eateries. It's a diner's paradise.



**Knoebels Amusement Resort retained its coveted Best Food Golden Ticket Award.**  
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# Dutch Wonderland, SeaWorld Orlando both remain undefeated

In 2019, some adjustments to a few core categories shifted things. Best Children's Park was reimagined as **Best Family Park**. Best Marine Life Park was expanded to both wildlife as well as the sea.

**Dutch Wonderland** makes it three wins in a row for Best Family Park. This category focuses on rides that families can ride together, lean toward a younger audience over thrill seekers and don't go upside down. The Lancaster, Pennsylvania, park offers all these elements in a delightful atmosphere.

"Earning the Golden Ticket Award for Best Family Park is such a great honor for Dutch Wonderland and every single member of our team," said General Manager **James Paulding**. "We put a lot of focus this season into fresh takes on our beloved Dive Shows and improving food and drink offerings throughout the park, and it's encouraging to see those efforts pay off."

**Santa's Village** in New Hampshire makes a huge leap to second place. Filled with so many rides and attractions geared toward Christmas, it's hard not to fall in love with the park.

**Paultons Park** (No. 3) in England has been charming folks with its beautiful landscaping, ever-growing lineup of rides and the adorable appeal of Peppa Pig World. The park has built two family roller coasters in back-to-back years.

**Legoland Florida** (No. 4) is a crowd pleaser in the Sunshine State. For those wishing to build their own tickets, Legoland features both a theme park and



Dutch Wonderland (above) is named Best Family Park. SeaWorld Orlando remains undefeated as Best Wildlife/Marine Life Park. COURTESY DUTCH WONDERLAND, SEAWORLD

water park, in addition to the new **Peppa Pig Theme Park** adjacent.

**Story Land** (No. 5) in New Hampshire has been on the charts for multiple years. The park offers many unique rides, all geared toward the young and young at heart, many of which are wrapped up into some delightful themes.

It is no surprise to find **Best Wildlife/Marine Life Park** in the hands of **SeaWorld Orlando**. The park has remained the champ in this category in all its incarnations.

"SeaWorld's mission is to help our guests explore the wonders around them and inspire them to take action to protect wild animals and wild places. We are thrilled to be recognized for

pursuing that mission and grateful for the honor of receiving this award," said **Kyle Miller**, park president.

Just down I-4 in Central Florida, **Busch Gardens Tampa Bay** (No. 2) has an amazing blend of animals and animal experiences interwoven with the park's shows and rides making for a day of diverse experiences.

**Disney's Animal Kingdom** (No. 3), also in Florida, has a similar formula of engaging guests with animal encounters while offering rides and shows.

**Discovery Cove** (No. 4) is renowned for allowing guests to swim with dolphins and immerse themselves in special sea life experiences.

**Ocean Park** (No. 5) in Hong Kong rounds out the finalists in this category.





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# Meow Wolf Convergence Station takes Breakout FEC Golden Ticket

**Meow Wolf Convergence Station** takes an entirely different approach to family entertainment and takes the Golden Ticket for **Breakout FEC**. The quirky art colony known as **Meow Wolf** has created an immersive environment in which visitors explore mind-bending creations. Different passages and rooms allow guests to interact with exhibits to become part of the journey.

"Meow Wolf is thrilled to be recognized for the opportunities we provide families to inspire creativity and explore the unexpected at Convergence Station," said **Kati Murphy**, vice president, communications. "We are grateful to *Amusement Today* for this award."

Visitors engage in more than 70 unique installations



within the four-story facility. According to the creative minds there: "Arrive as you. Leave transformed." It blends an art exhibit into family entertainment.

**The Funplex** (No. 2) in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina opened in the summer of 2021 and is an outdoor compact facility within the Funplex brand. Multiple rides are contained within the track of a spinning/flip-flying roller coaster. Rides are eye-catching and can be enjoyed on a per-ride basis, an unlimited ride wristband or a one-week pass.



Denver's Meow Wolf Convergence Station took the Breakout FEC Golden Ticket by breaking new boundaries. COURTESY MEOW WOLF

**The Funplex** (No. 3) in Mount Laurel, New Jersey, celebrated its 25th anniversary with a laser light show for families. This was on the heels of doubling the size of its water park with Splash Island in 2021. The facility has seen considerable expansion

with indoor rides in 2011, Family Fun Coaster in 2014, Splashplex water park in 2016 and a drop tower in 2020.

**Elev8 Fun** (No. 4) opened in Sanford, Florida, with what they feel is an all-encompassing two-story entertainment concept. Go

karts, bowling, laser tag and a VR arena are the high-end components, but mini golf, a ropes course and arcade still provide the expected elements proven for fun.

Owners are pleased to bring new life to an abandoned Sears store in the mall, feeling that they are helping revive the community.

**Shepherd of the Hills** (No. 5) is a family entertainment park in Branson, Missouri. Recently, the historic property has expanded beyond its roots and show performances. New ownership in 2016 has led to the growth of the property. An adventure park engages families with options from miniature golf to a new Copperhead Mountain alpine coaster. Various zipline adventures take advantage of the stunning views of the Ozarks.





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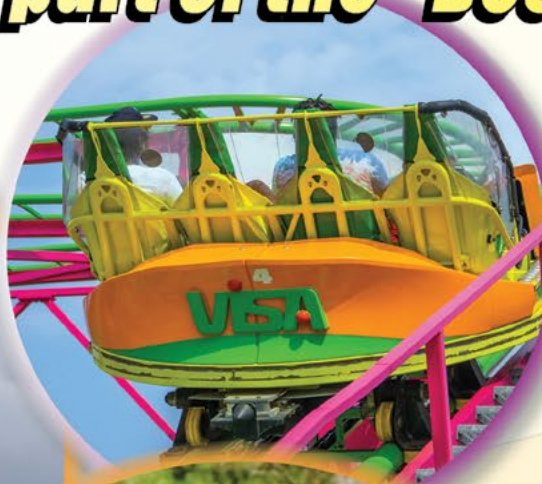
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# VLocker double-sided locker solution awarded Best Innovation

**VLocker** Introduced electronic lockers in the mid-1990s and opened its North American entity in 2015. The company was the first to the market with double-sided lockers. Among the nominees received, it was the clear winner for **Best Innovation**.

"We started talking about dual-sided lockers at our very first meeting. This [award] is like a shot in the arm for us," said **Keith Shupp**, executive vice president. "This is a new way for us to share our lockers."

In 2017, VLocker applied for the patent. In

the process, they exhibited the concept at trade shows. **Cedar Fair** became a client from meetings at the IAAPA Expo, where VLocker won a Brass Ring Award for Best New Product.

"Guest safety is paramount at every park," noted Shupp. "We knew things were flying out of people's pockets. We took it to heart."

The lockers were designed for Class 5 thrill rides in which riders are prohibited from bringing aboard loose items. With lockers placed in the queue near the boarding station, guests are able to use their phones for most

of the wait time and simply retrieve articles from the exit side. It was a free-to-the-guest solution that visitors embraced.

"The process for the guest is very simple and quick," said Shupp. "It's one thing to lose a new phone, but it's worse if it hits someone walking in the park or another rider. Guest feedback when they were retrieving their items was enthusiastic. They were so glad they didn't have to hang on to anything."

Ride operators were pleased with the results as were park management. "It was all positive," said Shupp.



Double-sided lockers from VLocker were a success in Cedar Point's Steel Vengeance queue. COURTESY VLOCKER

## Best Innovation of 2022: Honorable Mentions

### Competency Management (Mobaro)

The new **Competency Management** tool from **Mobaro** is where maintenance, ride operations, F&B and other departments take control of the required training and certification of their staff.

Visitor attractions get a more reliable and fully actionable overview of training and proficiency of their staff members. With the connection to the other Mobaro features, managers can distribute and monitor training using the core checklist tool.

Competency Management can be used to allow only staff with required certifications, such as working at height, to access maintenance inspections if they have completed their training. For ride operators, this means they can log in to the Mobaro RideOps platform for documenting and reporting on ride operations — only if they have been trained on the specific ride.

### Cooking Oil Micro-Filtration (Filta)

The proprietary method of micro-filtering cooking oil many times stretches this increasingly expensive commodity and removes debris while making kitchens safer for employees by eliminating the potential for burn accidents. At the end of its life, **Filta** removes waste oil and recycles it into biodiesel, a significant eco-win.

Filta helps commercial kitchens with its proprietary filtration and fryer management process, extending the life of oil by micro-filtering

instead of dumping, as well as assisting commercial kitchens with labor savings since Filta technicians manage the fryer oil work, rather than employees. Additionally, Filta helps the environment by reducing packaging costs and recycling oil that has reached the end of its useful life, ensuring it is converted into biodiesel. For every gallon of biodiesel put into use, Filta prevents 16 pounds of carbon dioxide from entering the atmosphere.

### EVENTS Software Solution (Embed)

**Embed** launched **EVENTS**: the industry's first publishing-to-payment events marketing platform. **EVENTS** automatically syncs to customers' calendars, which drives more revenue, foot traffic, traction and conversion to events.

With its "Sync to Calendar" technology, **EVENTS** significantly improves how FECs manage their events and promotions and see visible results like increased event awareness, higher booking and ticketing rates and more marketing engagement.

**EVENTS** can be automatically synced to customers' digital calendars. Any fun event activity published on an FEC website, like gaming tournaments, brunch parties, the big game, and even Happy Hour, can make their way into guests' social calendars — all in a seamless guest journey, from a facility's website to booking, payment and confirmation. Pre-payment means low risk to the FEC operator.

### NinjaCross

**NinjaCross** has brought a new and fresh form of recreation for both water parks and municipal centers across the country.

The system turns competition and lap pools into fun obstacle courses and challenges. Obstacles are located below, on and above the water surface. A big strength of the **NinjaCross** system is that outdoors it can create exciting engagement in pools at water parks that are often underutilized. Indoors, lap pools and competition pools can be transformed into a new type of recreation by quickly lowering the system into place.

The system retracts high above water level in 60 seconds with a simple push of a button, there's no setup or breakdown time as with products such as inflatables.

### Stern Insider (Stern Pinball)

With **Stern Pinball Insider**, machines connect to the internet and a code for the machines can update wirelessly. Players can create their own user profiles and keep track of their scores. They can earn achievements within the machines. The new system has helped location play with people who want to play a game repeatedly and earn all the achievements in the game. Players can engage the pinball community forum and explore achievements.

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### Publisher Pick – Park of the Year Kings Island®

#### Best Park

- #6 Cedar Point®
- #8 Kings Island®

#### Best Water Park

- #1 Schlitterbahn®

#### Best Guest Experience

- #4 Kings Island®

#### Best Steel Coaster

- #1 **Fury 325®** – Carowinds®
- #2 **Steel Vengeance®** – Cedar Point®
- #3 **Millennium Force®** – Cedar Point®
- #9 **Intimidator® 305** – Kings Dominion®
- #10 **Maverick®** – Cedar Point®
- #15 **Leviathan®** – Canada's Wonderland®
- #17 **Diamondback®** – Kings Island®
- #20 **Orion®** – Kings Island®
- #25 **Magnum XL-200** – Cedar Point®

#### Best Wood Coaster

- #5 **The Beast®** – Kings Island®
- #6 **Mystic Timbers®** – Kings Island®
- #8 **GhostRider®** – Knott's Berry Farm®
- #11 **Gold Striker®** – California's Great America
- #19 **Shivering Timbers®** – Michigan's Adventure®

#### Best Water Park Ride

- #4 **Master Blaster®** – Schlitterbahn®

#### Best New Show

- #2 Kings Island®
- #3 Cedar Point®
- #4 Kings Island®

#### Best Kids Area

- #2 Kings Island®
- #3 Knott's Berry Farm®

#### Best Halloween Event

- #2 Knott's Berry Farm®

#### Best Christmas Event

- #5 Carowinds®





# AIMS International announces winner of annual Safety Award

The **AIMS International** Safety Award is presented annually to the individual or organization that demonstrates leadership, innovation and foresight in improving safety in the amusement industry. With safety as the industry's number one concern for guests and employees worldwide, efforts in improving safety are shown in many forms: the design and implementation of new products and technology, the development of safety education programs and training, and by exemplary leadership in influencing others.

AIMS International is proud to announce that the winner of the 2022 AIMS International Safety Award is **C.W. Craven**.

Craven lives in Northern Nevada just outside Carson City. He tirelessly advocates for safety, both in the global amusement industry, as well as in his local community, in a variety of ways. Some examples of this prolific volunteerism are:



C.W. Craven

- Participates as a volunteer instructor for a variety of amusement ride and aerial passenger ropeway safety seminars. The AIMS International Safety Seminar and the **Pacific Northwest Exhibition's** (PNE) SafeConnect Conferences are among the many amusement industry safety seminars with which he shares his knowledge and talents

- Participates as an active member and a Sub-Committee Chairman of ASTM Committee F-24 on Amusement Rides

and Devices

- Participates as an active voting member of the ANSI B-77 Committee on Aerial Passenger Ropeways

- Serves his community as a Volunteer Firefighter

- Serves as 27-year volunteer with the **Nevada State Railroad Museum** in Carson City, Nevada.

Craven's career in the amusement ride and ski industry began in 1990 when he became a member of the electrical team at **Great America** theme park in Santa Clara, California. Four years later he went to work at **Circus Circus Adventure Dome** in Las Vegas, Nevada, and in 1996, he joined the team at **Garaventa CTEC**, an aerial passenger ropeway manufacturer, as a field service representative in Salt Lake City, Utah.

Several years later, Craven joined the ownership group of the gondola at the **Washington State Fair** in Puyallup, as a partner and general manager, and in 2013, he became a partner

in the operation of a chair lift at the **Oregon State Fair** in Salem. Additionally, he is the president and janitor of **Linehan Creek Ltd**, which is an amusement ride/ropeway inspection, operation and maintenance business.

Craven is currently the Sub Committee Chairman for Special Rides and Attractions on the ASTM F24 Committee for Amusement Rides and Devices. He is also a voting member of the ANSI B77 Committee for Aerial Passenger Ropeways.

In 2009, Craven was the recipient of the AIMS International John Allen Award, and in 2018 he was presented with the Jimmy Floyd Award for his work on the ASTM F24 Committee for Amusement Rides and Devices.

Craven holds the following certifications from AIMS International: Certified Maintenance Professional (Level III), Certified Ride Inspector (Level II) and Certified Operations Technician (Level II). He is also a NAARSO

Certified Ride Inspector Level III (with an instructor endorsement) and holds a NAARSO Operations Level I certification. Additionally, Craven holds several maintenance trades certifications and several certifications related to his work as a volunteer firefighter.

AIMS International Board Member, **Timo Klaus**, wrote in his nomination of Craven for this award:

"C.W. is always ready to assist and share his knowledge at the seminar and other AIMS activities, contributing to the safety in general through ASTM, and is also involved in the various amusement industry related activities in the North West, including the North West Showmen and PNE SafeConnect. Typically a selfless person, C.W. is always ready to contribute and help, doing everything in his abilities to assist in promoting safety himself, but also in supporting others to allow them to share their message."

—M.J. Brewer,  
AIMS International

## CONGRATULATIONS TO C.W. CRAVEN 2022 AIMS INTERNATIONAL SAFETY AWARD WINNER!



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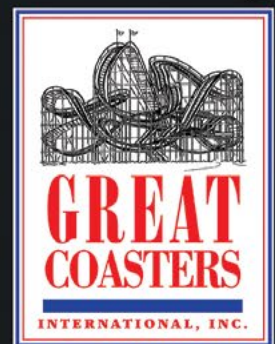
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# Knoebels' Phoenix takes Best Wooden Coaster for a fourth time

It is incredibly fitting for **Phoenix** at **Knoebels Amusement Resort** to celebrate its latest win as **Best Wooden Roller Coaster** when the Golden Ticket Awards are hosted in San Antonio, the birthplace of the award-winning coaster. From 1947 to 1980, the city's **Playland Park** thrilled guests with **The Rocket**. The Knoebel family secured the magnificent ride and relocated it to Elysburg, Pennsylvania, in 1985. The coaster has been in the Golden Tickets' top ten since the awards originated in 1998.

"We're honored Phoenix has been recognized again with this prestigious award and extend our sincere gratitude to the voters," said **Dick Knoebel**. "Our team is dedicated to meticulously maintaining every inch of Phoenix's 3,200 feet of track. This ensures guests can enjoy a world-class experience from start to finish. It has been 75 years since this roller coaster opened as The Rocket at Playland Park. This just goes to show that a wooden roller coaster can provide timeless thrills when there's commitment to preserving it."



It is the fourth time for Phoenix to take the top prize. Only two other coasters have done so in the history of the Golden Ticket Awards. **The Voyage** (No. 2) at **Holiday World** held on from 2007 to 2011, the longest stretch so far at five years. Its Holiday World sibling, **The Raven** (No. 24) was the first to have a four-year run from 2000 to 2003.

In an era when it is quite remarkable to have three wooden coasters at a park, Holiday World boasts all three of its wooden coasters in the top 25 with **The Legend** landing at No. 22. Surprisingly, there are some parks nowadays that don't offer a single wooden roller coaster.

A former No. 1 woodie, **El Toro** at **Six Flags Great Adventure**, holds its spot at No. 3. **Boulder Dash** at **Lake Compounce** keeps its No. 4 position. Both have once taken the Golden Ticket in this category, making the top four a quartet of wooden winners.



Phoenix (No. 1). AT/JEFFREY SEIFERT

**Kings Island** is the only park with bragging rights to having two top ten wooden coasters. **The Beast** checks in at its No. 5 spot, immediately followed by **Mystic Timbers**.

In comparison to the 2021 charts, two coasters flip positions. **Ravine**

**Flyer 2** at **Waldameer** nudges up a spot, while **GhostRider** at **Knott's Berry Farm** takes No. 8.

Two **Herschend Family Entertainment** properties complete the top ten. **Silver Dollar City's Outlaw Run** (No. 9) and **Thunderhead** at

**Dollywood** (No. 10) maintain their top-tier status.

In addition to Holiday World's accomplishment of three woodies on the Top 25 chart, three other parks have a trio in the 50 best. Knoebels' Phoenix

► See **WOODEN**, page 61



Boulder Dash (No. 5). COURTESY LAKE COMPOUNCE



The Voyage (No. 2). AT/JEFFREY SEIFERT



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THE LIST

2022 TOP 25 WOODEN ROLLER COASTERS



RANK	NAME	PARK	LOCATION	SUPPLIER	YEAR
1	Phoenix	Knoebels Amusement Resort	Elysburg, Pennsylvania	Dinn-PTC/Shmeck	1985
2	Voyage	Holiday World	Santa Claus, Indiana	The Gravity Group	2006
3	El Toro	Six Flags Great Adventure	Jackson, New Jersey	Intamin	2006
4	Boulder Dash	Lake Compounce	Bristol, Connecticut	Custom Coasters Int.	2000
5	Beast	Kings Island	Mason, Ohio	KECO	1979
6	Mystic Timbers	Kings Island	Mason, Ohio	Great Coasters Int.	2017
7	Ravine Flyer 2	Waldameer	Erie, Pennsylvania	The Gravity Group	2008
8	GhostRider	Knott's Berry Farm	Buena Park, California	Custom Coasters/GCII	1998
9	Outlaw Run	Silver Dollar City	Branson, Missouri	Rocky Mountain Const.	2013
10	Thunderhead	Dollywood	Pigeon Forge, Tennessee	Great Coasters Int.	2004
11	Gold Striker	California's Great America	Santa Clara, California	Great Coasters Int.	2013
12	Jack Rabbit	Kennywood	West Mifflin, Pennsylvania	Miller	1920
13	Wodan	Europa-Park	Rust, Germany	Great Coasters Int.	2012
14	Lightning Racer	Hersheypark	Hershey, Pennsylvania	Great Coasters Int.	2000
15	Wildfire	Kolmården	Norrköping, Sweden	Rocky Mountain Const.	2016
16	Troy	Toverland	Sevenum, Netherlands	Great Coasters Int.	2007
17	Cyclone	Luna Park/Coney Island	Brooklyn, New York	Baker/Keenan	1927
18	Balder	Liseberg	Gothenberg, Sweden	Intamin	2003
19	Shivering Timbers	Michigan's Adventure	Muskegon, Michigan	Custom Coasters Int.	1998
20	Thunderbolt	Kennywood	West Mifflin, Pennsylvania	Vettel/Miller	1968
21	Boardwalk Bullet	Kemah Boardwalk	Kemah, Texas	The Gravity Group/M&V	2007
22	Legend	Holiday World	Santa Claus, Indiana	Custom Coasters Int.	2000
23	Comet	Great Escape	Queensbury, New York	PTC/Schmeck	1994
24	Raven	Holiday World	Santa Claus, Indiana	Custom Coasters Int.	1995
25	Colossos	Heide Park	Soltau, Germany	Intamin	2001

View the Top 50 wooden roller coasters at
[www.GoldenTicketAwards.com](http://www.GoldenTicketAwards.com)



## ►WOODEN

Continued from page 58

is joined by **Twister** (No. 28) and **Flying Turns** (No. 31). **Kennywood's** three — all designated as ACE Roller Coaster Landmarks — are **Jack Rabbit** (No. 12), **Thunderbolt** (No. 20) and **Racer** (No. 33). **Six Flags St. Louis** finds its **Screaming Eagle** at No. 38, **The Boss** at No. 43 and **American Thunder** at No. 49.

Five coasters have jumped ten spots or more in relation to the 2021 tabulations. **Wodan** at **Europa-Park** moved up to No. 13 from last year's No. 23. **Texas Stingray**, which opened at **SeaWorld San Antonio** mere days before the beginning of the 2020 pandemic is finding more coaster fans falling in love with the country's newest

woodie. It moves from No. 45 up to No. 27. **Cú Chulainn** at Ireland's **Tayto Park** jumps a ten spot up to No. 33, and Kennywood's **Racer** returns to the Top 50 chart tying at No. 33. **T Express** at South Korea's **Everland** moves from No. 50 to No. 39.

Seven of the coasters are found in countries outside of the United States.

**Great Coasters International, Inc.** has the most woodies on the chart with 13. Although **Custom Coasters International** closed its doors in 2002, nine of the company's projects are still in the listings. Many team members of that company formed **The Gravity Group**, which claims six spots on the charts. Four of the top five coasters sport rolling stock from **Philadelphia Toboggan Coasters Inc.**



El Toro (No. 3). AT/TIM BALDWIN



The Beast (No. 5). AT/GARY SLADE

Although known more for its steel coaster track designs, **Rocky Mountain Construction** has three installations on the wood charts, two of which are in the upper 25.

The oldest roller coaster on the charts is **Rutschebanan** (No. 40). A fixture at **Tivoli Gardens** in Copenhagen, the ride was built in 1914. Four coasters harken back to the 1920s:

**Jack Rabbit**, Kennywood (No. 12); **Cyclone**, Luna Park (No. 17); **Racer**, Kennywood (No. 33) and **Giant Dipper**, **Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk** (No. 31).

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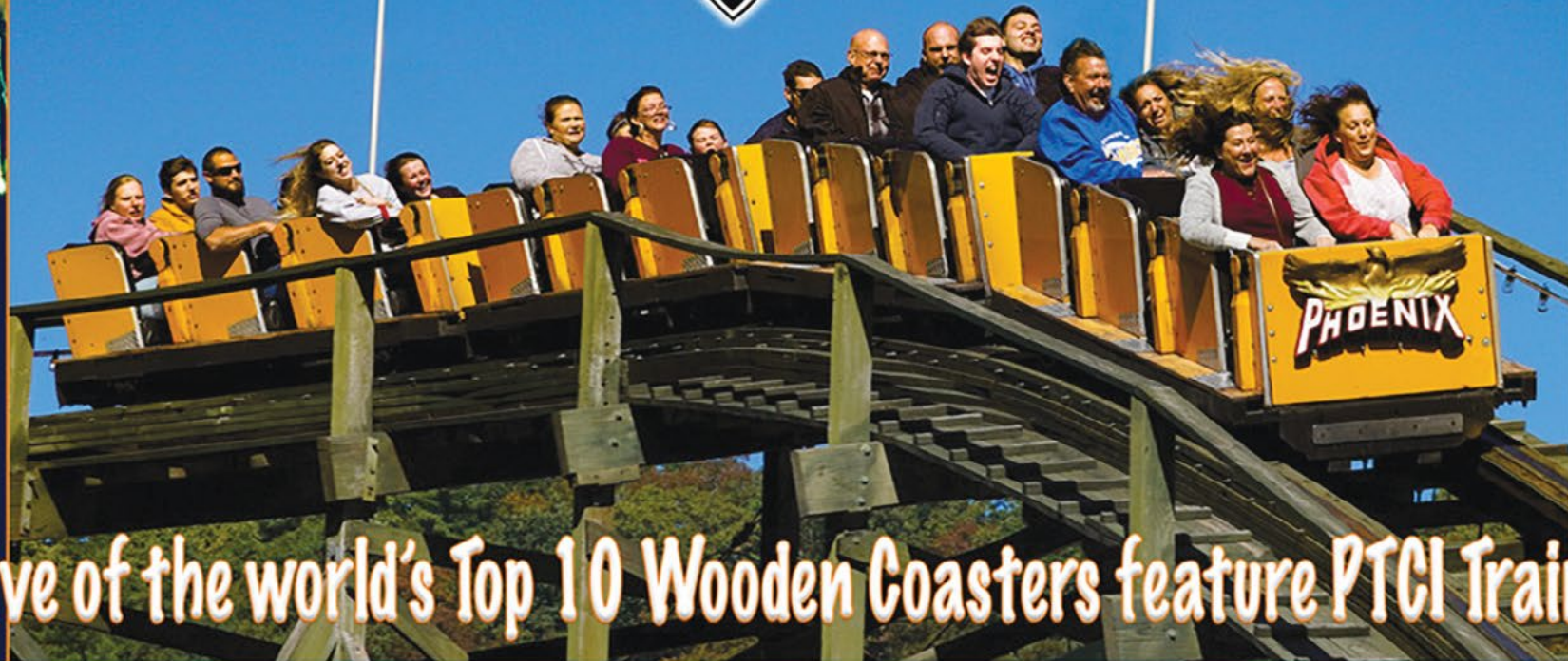
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**#2 VOYAGE**  
Holiday World



**#4 BOULDER DASH**  
Lake Compounce



**#5 BEAST**  
Kings Island



**#7 RAVINE FLYER II**  
Waldameer Park

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# Steel Coaster top ten shuffles, Fury 325 continues hold on top spot

The sheer quantity of new steel coasters over new wooden coasters would naturally cause more ripple effects in the listings. This season, much has changed in the category of **Best Steel Coaster**.

What remains in place is **Fury 325** taking the Golden Ticket. For its sixth consecutive win, the coaster supplied by **Bolliger & Mabillard** continues to astound **Carowinds** audiences.

"Our guests feel the sting on Fury 325," said **Courtney Weber**, director of communications, Carowinds. "Voted the best new roller coaster of the year when it debuted in 2015, Fury 325 continues to create buzz at Carowinds. The 325-foot-tall steel coaster provides guests a panoramic view of Charlotte, before reaching speeds of 95 mph with the first drop. Fury 325 is still an amazing rush that coaster fans around the world routinely seek."

The Nos. 2 and 3 spots switch places, both located at **Cedar Point**. **Steel Vengeance** moves up a notch over **Millennium Force**. When joined by **Maverick** (No. 10), Cedar Point is the only park to have three steel coasters in the top ten.

"When it comes to innovation with roller coasters and thrill rides, Cedar Point has always been at the forefront," said **Tony Clark**, director of communications. "We are more than proud to deliver these experiences that guests love enough to honor them



Fury 325 (No. 1).  
COURTESY OF CAROWINDS

with Golden Ticket Awards. It's a pretty big deal to Cedar Point, to the team and to Sandusky, Ohio."

Millennium Force was the first coaster to have a run of six consecutive wins (and ten overall).

The rise of two new coasters in the top five is particularly startling, especially as **Iron Gwazi** (No. 4) had been open for only half a year. The **Rocky Mountain Construction** monster at **Busch Gardens Tampa Bay** stands 206 feet tall.

Leaping into the top five is **Jurassic World VelociCoaster** at **Universal's Islands of Adventure**. Debuting in 2021 as the world began to emerge from the pandemic, more fans are visiting Florida, and this coaster climbs 13 rungs to No. 5.

**Intamin** has a staggering six coasters in the top ten.



Iron Gwazi (No. 4). COURTESY OF BUSCH GARDENS

Joining Millennium Force, **VelociCoaster** and **Maverick** are **Expedition GeForce** at Germany's **Holiday Park** (No. 6), **Superman The Ride** at **Six Flags New England** (No. 7) and **Intimidator 305** (No. 9) at **Kings Dominion**.

Wedge in that cluster is **Apollo's Chariot** (No. 8) from B&M. It has been a homerun at **Busch Gardens Williamsburg** since 1999.

Nine countries outside

of the United States are represented on the charts, speaking to the expertise of this year's panel.

Multiple coasters made significant gains of 10 positions or more this year. In addition to **VelociCoaster**, **Orion** at **Kings Island** jumped from No. 31 last year to No. 20 this year. **Herhseypark's Skyrush** leapt a ten spot from No. 33 to No. 23. **Zadra** at Poland's

**Energylandia** made its first appearance at No. 26, almost landing in the Top 25. **Helix** at **Liseberg** moved from No. 40 to No. 30, and **The Ride to Happiness** at **Plopsaland De Panne** whirls onto the chart at No. 39. The latter two entries were supplied by **Mack Rides**.

While Cedar Point boasts three in the top ten — and four on the Top 25 chart — two other parks have three in the Top 50. Busch Gardens Williamsburg's **Alpengeist** (No. 36) and the new-for-2022 **Pantheon** (making its first appearance at No. 43) form the trio with **Apollo's Chariot**. **Kings Island's Orion** is joined by **Diamondback** (No. 17) and **Banshee** (No. 37) for a B&M triple punch.

B&M has the largest selection of installations in the Top 50 at 18. Intamin has 10. Rocky Mountain Construction — with just 11 years of projects — has an impressive nine. Mack Rides has three.

Of interest, the staying power of **Anton Schwarzkopf** still has four of his coasters ranked among today's thrillers. Three from the 1970s — **Riddler Mindbender** at **Six Flags Over Georgia** (No. 28), **Shock Wave** at **Six Flags Over Texas** (No. 47) and **Whizzer** at **Six Flags Great America** (No. 50) — shows that quality passes the test of time. Whizzer is the oldest coaster on the chart; it was built in 1976.



Steel Vengeance (No. 2). AT/TIM BALDWIN



Millennium Force (No. 3). COURTESY CEDAR POINT



Jurassic World VelociCoaster (No. 5).  
COURTESY KRIS ROWBERRY



THE LIST

2022 TOP 25 STEEL ROLLER COASTERS



RANK	NAME	PARK	LOCATION	SUPPLIER	YEAR
1	Fury 325	Carowinds	Charlotte, North Carolina	B&M	2015
2	Steel Vengeance	Cedar Point	Sandusky, Ohio	Rocky Mountain Const.	2018
3	Millennium Force	Cedar Point	Sandusky, Ohio	Intamin	2000
4	Iron Gwazi	Busch Gardens Tampa Bay	Tampa, Florida	Rocky Mountain Const.	2022
5	Jurassic World VelociCoaster	Universal's Islands of Adventure	Orlando, Florida	Intamin	2021
6	Expedition GeForce	Holiday Park	Hassloch, Germany	Intamin	2001
7	Superman The Ride	Six Flags New England	Agawam, Massachusetts	Intamin	2000
8	Apollo's Chariot	Busch Gardens Williamsburg	Williamsburg, Virginia	B&M	1999
9	Intimidator 305	Kings Dominion	Doswell, Virginia	Intamin	2010
10	Maverick	Cedar Point	Sandusky, Ohio	Intamin	2007
11	Lightning Rod	Dollywood	Pigeon Forge, Tennessee	Rocky Mountain Const.	2016
12	Taron	Phantasialand	Brühl, Germany	Intamin	2016
13	Phantom's Revenge	Kennywood	West Mifflin, Pennsylvania	Morgan/Arrow	2001
14	Iron Rattler	Six Flags Fiesta Texas	San Antonio, Texas	Rocky Mountain Const.	2013
15	Leviathan	Canada's Wonderland	Vaughan, Ontario, Canada	B&M	2012
16	Mako	SeaWorld Orlando	Orlando, Florida	B&M	2016
17	Diamondback	Kings Island	Mason, Ohio	B&M	2009
18	Twisted Colossus	Six Flags Magic Mountain	Valencia, California	Rocky Mountain Const.	2015
19	Candymonium	Hersheypark	Hershey, Pennsylvania	B&M	2020
20	Orion	Kings Island	Mason, Ohio	B&M	2020
21	Nitro	Six Flags Great Adventure	Jackson, New Jersey	B&M	2001
22	Time Traveler	Silver Dollar City	Branson, Missouri	Mack	2018
23	Skyrush	Hersheypark	Hershey, Pennsylvania	Intamin	2012
24	Hagrid's M. C. Motorbike Adv.	Universal's Islands of Adventure	Orlando, Florida	Intamin	2019
25	Magnum XL-200	Cedar Point	Sandusky, Ohio	Arrow	1989

View the Top 50 steel roller coasters at
[www.GoldenTicketAwards.com](http://www.GoldenTicketAwards.com)



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## BREAKING NEWS

# Baynum Painting rebrands as Baynum Solutions, restructures leadership

NEWPORT, Ky. — **Baynum Painting Inc.** and its partner organization **BPI Painting** have announced they are rebranding as **Baynum Solutions**. The company, which was founded 40 years ago and specializes in amusement parks and commercial painting projects, also announced a new leadership structure with **Chris Baynum**, company founder and former president, transitioning to the role as chairman of Baynum Solutions' board of directors.

Baynum Solutions has also announced a new leadership team. **Daniel Adams**, former vice president of business operations, has been promoted to managing director and will guide the day-to-day business of the company. In this role, he will oversee all operations and strategic planning, management of company policy and coordinating the collaboration of resources across



Chris Baynum



Daniel Adams



John Andrews



Walter Bowser

the various lines of business.

**John Andrews** has been promoted from VP of sales to president of the commercial and industrial solutions side of the company and has more than 30 years of history working with Baynum. **Walter Bowser** has been promoted from vice president to president of the amusement solutions line, where he'll be the new face of Baynum amongst its worldwide clientele in the entertainment, amusement and water park markets.

Baynum has painted



numerous iconic attractions around the world over its 40 years in business, including **Coney Island's** Cyclone at New York's **Luna Park**, Hair Raiser at **Luna Park** in Sydney, Australia, and **Kings Island's** Eiffel Tower, to name a few. The Beast roller coaster at Kings Island in Cincinnati was the company's first amusement park project in the early 1980s.

"As our businesses have

continued to evolve over the past 40 years, our company has merged both sides of the company under this new master brand," said Chris Baynum. "The purpose of the consolidation is to help clarify who we are and better reflect our expanded service offerings, since we do offer much more than painting and coating services."

Baynum Painting now Baynum Solutions has been known for its award-winning work in the amusement park business for four decades. Baynum Solutions has

expanded its amusement services to include: ride relocation and installation, Life Floor and iSlide certified installs, and fiberglass restoration and gelcoating.

The company has also expanded its services in commercial and industrial solutions including ultra-high-pressure water jetting, tank blasting; abrasive blasting preparation and coating removal; tank blasting and lining; confined space industrial cleaning and coatings as well as line stripping and traffic markings.

•baynum.com

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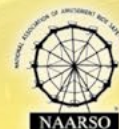


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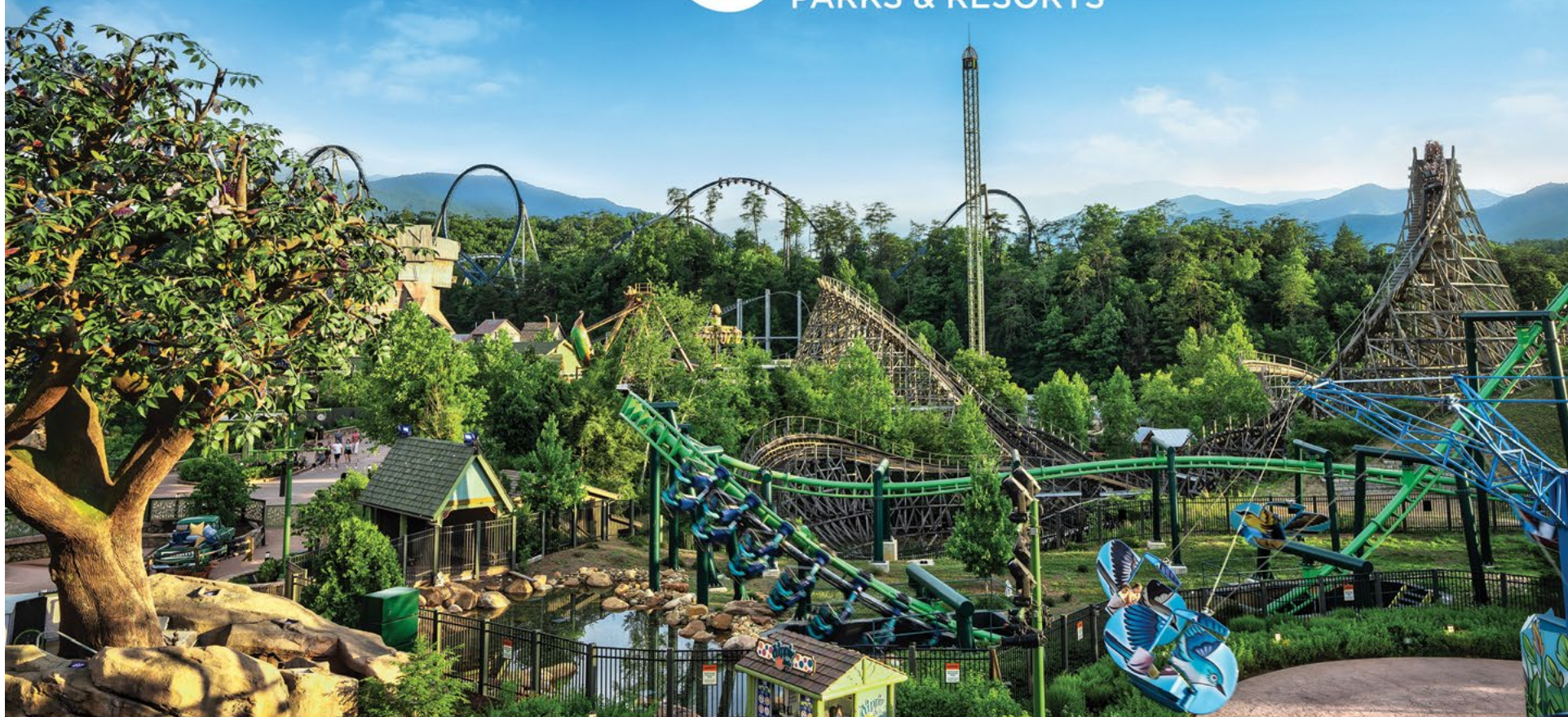
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